

Text **8th grade**

Algebra I - Concepts and Skills (McDougal Littell)

Downloads

All documents included in this website (lesson plans, homework, warm ups, notes, quizzes and test) are ' pdf ' files. To open these you will need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader to your computer. The Adobe download link is found on Mr. Allyn's homepage.

Course Overview

This is a course that will cover the entire topic range of the McDougal Little Algebra text, Chapters 1 through 12 from the properties of rational numbers and linear equations to linear systems, quadratic equations and connections to geometry. Our Algebra program provides comprehensive coverage of all California Mathematics Standards with a focus on problem solving, critical thinking, and teaching students to think mathematically. See Algebra I Scope and sequence.

Step-by-step organization and neatness is critical to success in Algebra I

Grading Policy

Grades are based upon the points earned from tests/quizzes, problem sets, notes, quarterly submitted portfolios, and pro-activity points.

The weights assigned to each item are as follows:

- Tests 30 %
- Quizzes 30 %
- Homework 20 %
- Portfolio 10 %
- Pro-activity 5 %

Tests/Quizzes

Tests and quizzes will be posted on the individual monthly homework page. Each is a downloadable pdf file. Tests are sent home only after all students have completed them. Quizzes are unannounced and given frequently.

If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, s/he is responsible for arranging to take a make-up test or quiz before or after school.

Homework Problem Sets

Students are required to retain all assignments, quizzes/tests, notes and problem sets in their classroom files. Weekly problem sets are collected and graded during the quarter. The continuous maintenance of class work files, notes, tests and quizzes is essential to organizational and study skill development. Students will cull their portfolio entries from these class files.

All assignments may be found on this website.

Portfolios (1 per quarter)

Student portfolios are submitted toward the end of each quarter. The portfolio contains examples of student work which best exemplifies progress in terms of problem solving, organization skills and neatness, as well as concept understanding. In an accompanying one-page narrative (typed, double space), each student will discuss perceptions of their individual progress and their strengths, and the areas that require continued stress and improvement.

Assignments

Homework will be assigned at least four days each week and is due at the beginning of the next class meeting. In-class assignments and projects may also be given. All work will be graded on completeness, organization and neatness. Work must be done in pencil with the problems copied and all work shown. All assignments must have a heading. Assignments are each worth four points (8 points during the 3rd quarter and 4th quarter). Late work, excluding absences, will be accepted for half credit up until the day of the unit test.

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Homework Heading

Place the assignment # in the upper left hand corner along with the page number and listing of the problems. In the upper right hand corner, place the student name and period # and then the date. (See example below)

HW # 5
Problem Set 2 (1-28 [odd], 36a, 40)

John Smith - Period 3
September 19, 2007

Student Leadership: Pro-activity

Taking ownership means being a proactive partner in this year's mathematics experience. Come to class prepared, organized and willing to participate in class discussions. Ask questions when you do not understand – you will be helping others who might have similar questions.

Substitutes

Substitutes may be required on a few occasions. Respectful or appropriate behavior when a substitute is teaching is expected.

Absences

It is each student's responsibility to make arrangements upon returning from an absence to get a list of make-up work. Tests and quizzes can be made up before school, after school hours or during lunch or at a mutually agreed time.

Extra Help

If a student is having difficulty with the work, or if s/he feels the need for some extra review, I am usually available before school and after school. Parents may contact me at any time with questions or concerns although a daytime and evening phone number should be left; I will return calls as soon as possible. I can also be reached via e-mail.

Blach telephone	650 934-3814
e-mail	jallyn@blachschool.org

Grades by Percent

90 - 100	A range
80 - 89	B range
70 - 79	C range

This is the 'we need to talk' range and I have already contacted you

60 - 69	D range
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