

7TH GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA CLASS INFORMATION
Dr. Moerner

Text: *Pre-Algebra* (Prentice-Hall 2001)

Course Overview: This is a course that will cover such topics as (a) algebraic expressions, (b) equations and inequalities, (c) operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, (d) ratios, proportions, and percent, and (e) geometry, probability, and graphing. *Pre-Algebra* provides comprehensive coverage of all California Mathematics Standards with a focus on problem solving, critical thinking, and teaching students to think mathematically.

Grading Policy: Grades are based upon the points earned from tests, quizzes, notebooks, homework assignments, extra credit projects, and behavior points. The weights assigned to each item are as follows:

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| • Tests | 50% |
| • Quizzes | 25% |
| • Notebook, homework, extra credit projects, and behavior points | 25% |

◆ **Tests/Quizzes:** There will be one test for each unit (usually 100 points per test). There will be approximately two quizzes per unit. Some quizzes may be unannounced. A study hall is usually offered before 1st period prior to a test or quiz (excluding the times before an unannounced quiz). ***If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, s/he must be responsible for arranging to take a make-up test or quiz before or after school as soon as possible.***

- Please note: Talking during tests and quizzes is not allowed and will result in the quiz or test score being reduced by at least 10%.
- Quiz and test re-takes are generally allowed up to about 10 days after the initial exam. If the re-take exam score is higher, the re-take exam score is averaged in with the initial exam score. If the re-take exam score is lower, then only the original exam score is calculated in to the grade.

◆ **Notebooks:** Notebooks (a three ring binder) are collected at the end of each quarter. They are worth a maximum of 50 points and must be arranged by separate sections with dividers:

Course requirement sheet/policies (called the “green sheet”—there may be more than one sheet)
Assignment page (fully completed with # of assignment, date, and description of the assignment)
Warm-ups (in order by date and with the first side completely filled out)
Assignments (in order by date with corrections noted in a differently colored writing tool)
Notes/Guided Practices (in order by date)
Quizzes/Tests
Practice Workbook (sections done in class are completely filled out)
Progress Reports (in order by date)

◆ **Assignments:** Homework will usually be assigned at least four days each week (assignments are posted on Mondays) 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 and showing work (4 points). Work may be done in pencil or pen with the problems copied and all work shown. All assignments must have a heading. *Late work, excluding absences, will be accepted for half credit up until the day of the unit test.* Late work is not accepted after the end of a unit. **HOMEWORK MUST BE CORRECTED IN A DIFFERENTLY COLORED WRITING TOOL.**

◆ **Extra Credit:** Such projects will be discussed in class. Bonus points are generally added to the total daily work points at the END of the quarter.

- ◆ **Behavior Points:** Each student will begin with 50 behavior points each quarter. Points will be subtracted for failure to follow any of the student conduct expectations.

Student Conduct I expect all students to:

- Come prepared with an organized binder, binder paper, pencils, and a scientific calculator every day. Pens, colored pencils, or geometric tools may be helpful at times. **Calculators may not be borrowed from other students during tests or quizzes.**
- Work diligently on math homework during the time provided in class.
- Be courteous to the teacher and to the other students.
- Refrain from using profane language.
- Be attentive at all times while in class.
- Be an active, contributing member of the class.
- Leave all food and drink items outside the class.
- Respect school property and the property of others.
- Sharpen pencils before class and toss out trash at the end of the period.
- Work on schoolwork during the homework time given.

Students may leave the class for emergency purposes only. Although students may ask permission to use the restroom (be sure to take the pass), only one “free” trip per quarter is allowed.

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, or during lunch at a mutually agreed time.

Heading: Please 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 p. 980-981 (1-28 [odd], 36a, 40)	Gouda Cheese – 3 17 September 2009
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Extra Help: If a student is having difficulty with the work, or if s/he feels the need for some extra review, I am most easily available before school or during lunch. 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: 650-934-3844

e-mail: smoerner@blachschool.org

Web page: There is a plethora of information on the web page. Access it through Blach’s front page at www.blachschool.org. Find “Staff” and then find “Moerner.” **To find my homework assignments online**, go to www.blachschool.org, and click on the “PowerSchool Log-in.” You can then double-click on the homework number for my class to get the homework details. The other option is to go to the section on “Staff” and then find “Van De Vanter” as she graciously puts many of the teachers’ assignments on her web page; her site is frequently updated.

Grades by percent:	{	90 – 100	A range
		80 – 89	B range
		70 – 79	C range
		60 – 69	D range
		below 60	F

In this course, it is assumed that most students will automatically be enrolled in "Algebra" next year as 8th graders with the expectation that the students who maintain at least a "C" average will then advance to *Geometry* or *Geometry Honors* in 9th grade (assuming that the student will attend Los Altos High School or Mountain View High School). Some students, however, may be eligible to try to advance to "Accelerated Algebra" as an 8th grader although the same *Geometry* options would exist in 9th grade.

In order to attempt advancement to Accelerated Algebra as an 8th grader, the student must meet these requirements (I do not start looking at Accelerated Algebra option until well after the end of Q3):

1. **The student's teacher has specifically recommended that the student attempt advancement.**
2. The student has earned "A's" (96% or higher) in quarters one through three *with the earned grade being largely predicated on exam scores in the course rather than on extra credit*. This also assumes that the student has not done multiple re-takes in an effort to buttress their scores.
3. The student currently has an "A" average for the fourth quarter and is anticipated to maintain that grade (students who drop their grade in Q4 may no longer be eligible).
4. The student has been conscientious about showing his/her work and has completed homework on time.
5. The student is well-behaved in class.