



Pre-Algebra, 2017-2018
Mrs. Hall

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Textbook: Glencoe Math Accelerated, Pre-Algebra Program

Class Description

Math students at the Blanco River Academy are engaged through class discussion, note taking, inquiry labs, projects, tests, and individual work. We work diligently and thoroughly in the pursuit of learning! My hope and goal as the teacher is that each student will feel encouraged, supported, challenged, and confident as we journey deeper into math together.

Pre-Algebra is designed to strengthen number skills in preparation for algebra, and to explore beginning concepts in geometry. In this course we cover two broad areas: rational numbers & exponents, and proportionality & linear relationships.

Expectations

1. Come to class prepared and ready to participate and to learn. Students are expected to act in accordance with the school honor code, to use technology appropriately, and to be engaged in class activities. Being prepared includes having all your materials for class (notebook, homework, calculator, pencils, computer).
2. Homework and projects are due at the beginning of class. Students are encouraged to email me with any major questions on assignments; I plan a few minutes during class each day for questions and answers. Completed assignments may be turned in late for a deduction of one letter grade per class day.
3. Each student will keep notes in a composition book. This is considered a class participation grade, and is not optional. Students are expected to maintain all his or her class material in an organized manner.
4. Ask questions! Use your resources! Do not hesitate to ask me for help, or to reach out to your peers.

Technology Policy

While we do use a digital textbook and other online resources for class, it is important to our classroom culture and learning environment that other technology not be used during class time. Students may not use cell phones, tablets, iPods, etc unless given explicit permission (ie: for a project or listening to music during study time). Students do not have permission to use iMessage or other messaging apps on their computers during school hours. Cell phones stay put away, and students are welcome to check periodically for calls or messages during non-class times. We understand there may be times you parents need to reach your children! Additionally, students may check their phones before we leave for pick up at the end of the school day, but may not be used once we leave the classroom.

Students misusing their laptops during class will lose laptop privileges for the remainder of class, and be asked to share with a neighbor instead. Continual misuse of technology will result in parents being contacted, and student will lose classroom computer privileges for a period of time (student will use a hardcopy of the text). Thank you for your cooperation!

Year Overview			
Fall 2016		Spring 2017	
Ch. 1	The Language of Algebra	Ch. 5	Ratio, Proportion, Similar Figures
Ch. 2	Operations with Integers	Ch. 6	Percents
Ch. 3	Operations with Rational Numbers	Ch. 7	Algebraic Expressions
Ch. 4	Powers and Roots	Ch. 8	Linear Functions

* We will also spend some time on Statistics & Probability, Volume & Surface Area, and Congruent Figures

Grading Evaluation	
Tests	40%
Projects	30%
Quizzes	15%
Homework & Participation	15%

Tests

Students will take an in-class exam for each chapter covered. There will be at least a week's notice before each test, and students will have a class review day. If a student is absent for a test, he or she will be expected to take the test upon returning to class. Under extenuating circumstances (ie: extended absence due to illness or death in the family) I will work with the student to prepare him or her to sit for a make up exam at an appropriate date.

Projects

Students will work on exploratory math projects in this class both individually and in small groups. Projects are due on the assigned day, and 10 points will be deducted for each day they are late. Incomplete projects will not be accepted.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given throughout each unit, and there will typically be at least 1 class day's notice. I will occasionally give pop quizzes in order to encourage readiness and to provide challenges.

Homework

Students will have a homework assignment most days. If for some reason the assignment cannot be completed (ie: lack of understanding even after exhausting appropriate resources, a family emergency, or a special event), please have a parent or guardian write me a signed note and staple it to the assignment.