

Course Overview for Algebra I

Instructor: Julie Wright

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Textbook: Pre-Algebra: An Accelerated Course (*Note: when students have successfully completed the final pre-algebra requirements we will move on to an Algebra I textbook in a few weeks. Students may have the opportunity to provide some input into the choice of Algebra I text).*

Teaching philosophy:

1. **Didactic** – Lectures and math demonstrations.
2. **Storytelling** – Creating motivation and introducing new concepts with stories which help make abstract content more interesting and may help create a context for real-world problem-solving.
3. **Questioning** – Use of questions to stimulate analytical reasoning. Also includes homework, tests and quizzes because math must be practiced in order to be understood.
4. **Active engagement** – Use of activities to make learning fun. Sometimes this may involve games or puzzles.
5. **Responsibility in learning** – I want to help students reach their math learning goals, and in order to do this, I will provide accountability that feels fair and anticipated.

Course objectives:

Students will leave the course with competence in algebra, and a sense of how algebra applies to their daily lives and future careers. Hopefully learning algebra will also be an enjoyable process.

We will follow the core standards for Algebra being adopted nationwide. See link for more information. (<http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/HSA/introduction>)

Tentative Grading Outline: *(subject to change)*

50% - tests and quizzes

20% - in-class work

30% - homework. Late homework will need to be excused by a parent or guardian for an unavoidable absence or family reason. Without some communication from parents/guardians, late homework will receive an equitable penalty.

How students can succeed in this Algebra class:

1. Come prepared to learn (get 8 hours of sleep, eat breakfast, lunch and dinner without excessive sugar and with plenty of protein, complete homework from previous day, let me know if there are any emotional stressors going on at home or elsewhere that may affect performance)
2. Bring materials to class everyday (pencil, calculator, head phones, laptop, notebook*, planner* and folder*; please put completed homework in folder)
3. Ask questions: I want to know if there is any lack of understanding. Algebra concepts build on previous ones, so a lack of understanding in one part may hamper understanding the next concept. I will adjust my approach accordingly to aid student learning.
4. Do the homework (expect about 30 minutes of homework 5 nights per week, please have a quiet desk or table set up for the student at home in order for them to study). Students will write down their assignments in a planner. Homework assignments will be posted in the Hillside Homework Calendar with the code “ALG I” at:
<http://hscschool.org/community/teacher-pages/course-information/7-11-homework-calendars/>
5. Communicate with me in a timely manner if problems arise, we can come up with solutions.

* provided by Hillside already.