



# Advanced Algebra

## Course Syllabus

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Instructor: Mr. Jake Redmond

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Tutoring Information:

Tu & Fri during Lyceum

Room 224

## Course Overview & Objectives

Welcome to Advanced Algebra! Algebra is arguably the most important course in mathematics, as it creates the foundation for studying all higher-level mathematics. By mastering the concepts in this course, students will be ready to tackle courses in geometry, trigonometry, and calculus.

## Course Materials

The following materials are to be brought to class **every day**:

- Textbook
- Pencil, eraser, and red pen (for checking homework)
- Graph paper, either looseleaf or in a notebook
- 3-ring binder or pocket folder for notes handouts
- Student Planner

*\*A calculator will be useful at certain times but is not needed every day.*

## Course Expectations, Assignments, & Assessments

**Behavioral Expectations:** “The philosophy of the Academy is that students are young adults in the making who will learn civil, polite, and respectful conduct by the example of their teachers...Several very obvious signs of such respect are a student's willingness to refrain from talking in class when others have the floor; a respect for the property of the school and of other students; [and] a willingness to refrain from sarcastic or critical comments towards others. In conjunction with parents/guardians, the Academy has the goal of developing not only habits of good scholarship and critical inquiry, but the character traits of courtesy, promptness, forgiveness, self-control, responsibility, diligence, courage, generosity, and magnanimity.” (*Family Handbook*, p. 41)

**Class Participation:** Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class. Time is given during class to ask questions about homework, make corrections, help others, and ask questions. Every student will contribute to the classroom differently. Maintaining a focused academic presence, answering/asking questions, and presenting homework solutions are all excellent ways of being an active member of the learning community.

**Homework:** Homework will be given most nights and is typically due at the start of class the next day. Students are given a grade out of five for homework. To receive full credit, students are required to

neatly show work, **genuinely attempt** all problems, complete work in pencil on graph paper, and check odd problems using the solutions in the back of the textbook before class.

**Quizzes:** There will be 3–5 quizzes per quarter, usually once or twice throughout a chapter. Quizzes are intended to assess how well you are progressing with the material in the chapter and to make you aware of any topics on which you need to get clarification.

**Tests:** There will be 3–4 tests per quarter, typically at the end of a chapter. Tests are the formal assessment of your understanding of the topics we have been discussing in class, and as such are worth a significant portion of your grade.

## **Course Grading**

*“Teachers at the Academy do not merely crunch numbers to determine grades. It is true that there can be tests, etc., where there are clear right and wrong answers that can be tallied in an unambiguous and indisputable fashion. Which grade to assign to such results is still, however, a judgment of the teacher and takes into consideration such things as the goals of the course, the way in which the material has been taught, the right expectations from this class, etc.” (Family Handbook, p. 25)*

A student’s grade in this course is more than just a numerical calculation of the points they have earned throughout the marking period. In general, the category weights below are used to help guide overall grades for each quarter. Semester grades are guided by the principle of 45% for each quarter, and 10% for the final exam.

| Course Work        | Percentage  |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Participation      | 10%         |
| Tests              | 50%         |
| Quizzes            | 20%         |
| Homework/Classwork | 20%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>100%</b> |

## **Absent Work & Late Assignment Policies**

If you are absent, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get the notes and assignments that you missed and to turn in any make-up work. Check the **Absent Bin** when you return to find information about what you missed and what you’ll need to make up, along with copies of any necessary handouts.

- If you are absent one or two days, you will have one additional day for each day you missed.
- If you are absent three or more days in a row, we will work together to get you caught up.
- If you miss only a test or a quiz, expect to make it up the day you return.
- If you miss only a review day, expect to take the test with the rest of the class.

**Late work may be turned in one day late for half credit. Assignments turned in after that point will receive no credit.**

## How to be Successful in Advanced Algebra

Mastering any subject, especially mathematics, comes from **practice, perseverance, and patience**. A good start for every student is to try to be organized in both your materials and your habits. Other tips:

- **Use class time wisely!**
- **Take notes** in class and keep them organized in your binder.
- **Complete, correct, and keep daily homework.**
  1. Give honest, genuine effort on every assignment.
  2. Check odd problems in the back of the book.
  3. Ask questions in class when you get problems wrong.
- **Participate** in class discussions, work on in-class problems, and **ask** lots of questions!
- **Prepare** for quizzes and tests.
  1. Complete homework.
  2. Review notes and textbook.
  3. Do the assigned review problems.
- **Seek extra help** if you are struggling! **Math tutoring is available.**
- Use our class time wisely, persevere through the daily homework, be patient with yourself, and you will be surprised at how much you can grow!



-----Cut Here and Return-----



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please take the time to read this syllabus with your student, so that you both may understand the expectations and requirements for this class. While this syllabus includes the traditional signature page, **please submit the syllabus acceptance form found through my class website**. The QR code on the first page links directly to the course website. Your student's first assignment will be to complete this online form with you by Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the semester with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jake Redmond

jredmond@scottsdaleprep.org

Student Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_