

Advanced Algebra - Class Syllabus & Information

Mr de Vry Room 10 pdevry@pps.net Web site classes: www.kowhai.com/Alg34.html

Contacting us:

The best way to contact me is in person or via email.

What we'll study:

The Algebra 3-4 curriculum as specified by PPS.
A link to the Learning Targets is available on the class web site.

Required Materials:

Textbook: CPM: Algebra 2 Connections

Quad ruled loose leaf graph paper for homework
Quad ruled book/folder for classwork
Graphing Calculator TI-83 or TI-84 preferred, TI-89, TI-Nspire, or other ok.
Pencils, erasers, pens, and ruler

Behavioral expectations:

0. You are to follow all school rules.
1. You are expected to contribute to your learning and the learning of others.
2. You are expected to treat each other with respect, dignity, and trust.
3. You will do your best work.

Grading:

Your grade is based on demonstrated proficiency. See page 2 for details.

Daily Work:

Doing the in-class work is essential for your success in this class. There are many ways to avoid doing the work. All of them are harmful to your learning. Just do the work.

Regular math practice outside of class is critical to learning mathematics, but spending more than 20-30 minutes per class on homework may indicate that *you need to get extra help*: ... from the instructor, friends, parents or other adults, tutoring as available at Lincoln. Form a study group.

Homework will be assigned most periods and collected the following period. Homework is scored for effort. Showing all work is necessary for full points. You must have completed at least 80% of your homework to be eligible for retakes.

On Line Resources:

www.kowhai.com for everything you need to know about your assignments, and their completion and grade, can be found on this web site. There are also copies of this document, links to math related sites, and lists of math tutors.

The Proficiency Grading System

In a proficiency-based grading system you have an overall set of Learning Targets (aka LTs) to master for the semester. Grades are based solely on demonstration of mastery. Demonstration of mastery is through formal assessment. Any assessment, other than the final exam, may be retaken, but you must first demonstrate you have prepared to do better.

Proficiency Scoring:

Each LT evaluated in each assessment is graded on a 7 point scale. Your final grade is calculated from the median of your last three assessments. You do not get a single score per assessment. You get a score on each LT tested in an assessment. There will usually be more than one LT being evaluated in each assessment. An assessment will usually be a test, but could be in another form.

Assessment scores are based on this 7 point scale.

7 = In addition to score 6 performance, demonstration of inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught
6 = In addition to score 5 performance, partial demonstration of inferences/applications that go beyond what was taught.

5 = No major errors/omissions of any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.

4 = No major errors/omissions of simpler details/processes; partial demonstration of more complex ideas/processes.

3 = Partial demonstration of simpler details/processes; major errors/omissions regarding more complex ideas/processes.

2 = Limited demonstration of the simpler details/processes; either major errors/omissions or needs help on the more complex ideas/processes.

1 = With help, partial understanding of some of the simpler ideas and processes demonstrated.

0 = Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.

LT Scores: At the end of each grading period, students will receive a score for each LT covered during the term (note: each LT will be assessed several times during a term). The skill score will be the median of the three most recent scores on that LT, including retakes.

Grading Scale:

Your final grade is calculated like this:

A: *An mean of 5.8 with no LT lower than a 5*

B: *An mean of 4.8 with no LT lower than a 4*

C: *An mean of 3.8 with no LT lower than a 3*

D: *An mean of 3.0 with no LT lower than a 3*

F: *At least one LT score of 2 or lower.*