

Hampstead Hill Academy

Pre-Algebra Syllabus

Ms. Luthers
Room 310

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School Phone: (410) 396-9146
x310

WELCOME!

Welcome to pre-algebra! We have an exciting, busy, challenging, and fun year ahead. We will be able to grow a lot together and as a classroom community we will work hard to give everyone an opportunity to meet our big goals and their individual goals. This is your last step before high school. When you produce quality work and strive to reach your goals this year, you will leave middle school prepared to tackle the challenges you may face throughout your educational journey.

B'MORE

Growth is defined as the process of developing or maturing physically, mentally, or spiritually. In math this year, we will grow to B'MORE. Students will set individual goals for their own academic, social, and professional growth. As a class, we will encourage our peers to grow. With this constant support and encouragement, as well as showing continual perseverance and grit, we will all reach our goals by the end of the school year.

Our BIG GOALS

It is important to set goals throughout the year to make sure we are working to reach our full potential. We also must have BIG GOALS that will remind us what we are capable of achieving. This year, our BIG GOALS are:

“TOGETHER, we will grow to achieve an 85% or higher class average each marking period this year.”

“TOGETHER, we will grow to achieve an 80% or higher class average on each end of unit assessment this year.”

We will track our class average with each progress report and report card on our DATA TRACKER in our classroom. It will be very important to support each other in order to make sure our class average reaches or surpasses our goal.

We will track our end of unit assessment average for each assessment throughout the school year. In order to reach this whole class goal, we must grow individually and as a group. Supporting one another will push us to reach or exceed our goals.

Eureka Math

This year all 8th grade students will explore mathematics, make real-life connections, and become college-ready through a new curriculum at Hampstead Hill Academy called Eureka Math. This program incorporates a traditional model of mathematics instruction as well as exploratory mathematics. Students will make deeper connections between mathematical concepts, topics, and the real world; ultimately preparing them for Algebra 1.

Through direct lessons, guided lessons, and investigative lessons, students will prepare for quizzes, unit assessments, the NWEA and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). We will use portfolio projects, class discussions, the math workshop model, field trips, debates, and hands-on activities to help us strengthen our understanding.

Course Modules

Module 1: Integer Exponents and Scientific Notation

Module 2: The Concept of Congruence

Module 3: Similarity

Module 4: Linear Equations

Module 5: Examples of Functions from Geometry

Module 6: Linear Functions

Module 7: Introduction to Irrational Numbers Using Geometry

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Formulate and reason about expressions and equations
- Work with radical and integer exponents
- Model an association in bivariate data with a linear equation
- Solve linear equations
- Solve systems of linear equations
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use mathematical models
- Analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence
- Know, understand, and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Challenge others
- Ask questions
- Use technology to solve problems
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information
- Maintain an organized binder.
- Think critically
- Think about our thinking
- Track assessment data
- Set and meet personal goals
- Model seven essential character traits
- Model the LGP 5 promises

Grading System

Your grade is composed of three main components.

- **ASSESSMENTS** - 60%
- **CLASSWORK/PARTICIPATION** - 30%
- **HOMEWORK** - 10%

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments/Projects

There will be different forms of assessment used to determine how well students are understanding and mastering the content we are learning in class. In this category, unit assessments and individual portfolio projects are considered.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes almost every week. Quizzes are incremental ways to determine how well students have mastered the content from the previous week. These quizzes also inform instruction and reviews before taking a unit assessment.

Student Portfolios

All students at Hampstead Hill Academy are required to submit a portfolio that contains twelve pieces of student work (three from each class) that show hard work, creativity, and accomplishment. In math, we will complete at least three projects based on certain units of study. Depending on size, each project will be kept in the classroom or will be kept in your portfolio binder in your homeroom class. Portfolio projects are meant to showcase your best work. Teachers and administrators will review portfolio projects during and at the end of the school year.

CLASSWORK/PARTICIPATION

Exit Tickets/Classwork

Exit tickets are used to assess how well students mastered the key skills and content from the day's lesson. Additionally, each student will be given a Springboard student workbook for the entire year. In the workbook, students will complete lessons, investigative tasks, and take notes. Along with the student workbook, each student will maintain a math journal. We will also complete a variety of worksheets from other sources that can be graded as classwork.

Participation

Coming to school every day is the first step to prepare for the important transition to high school. You are expected to complete every assignment to the best of your ability and participate in class by asking questions, answering questions, and productively working independently or collaboratively on assigned tasks with your classmates. Almost every week, students will receive a participation score for the week out of 10. The following are considered when determining your participation score:

- Terp Start and exit ticket questions are answered completely with full effort at the beginning and end of class
- Asking and answering questions in class
- Actively engaging with whole class, partners, and independent work
- Collaborating with peers
- Showing work and thought process on assignments
- Assignments turned in on time

Homework

You will have homework almost every night. Homework will be written on the board at the beginning of class. Students are expected to write their homework assignment in their agenda book. Homework will be checked weekly for completeness and for accuracy. It is your responsibility to complete homework each night and have it in by the end of the week. Homework will be graded for 3 points. You can earn up to 3 points each day for completing your homework with observable effort. Students who do not have their homework will receive a 0 / 3 homework points that day.

Study Hall

It is the responsibility of every student to ***B'MORE proactive*** and seek more help when they feel it will help them to ***grow*** or if it will help them to be successful on an assessment, as well as commit time outside of school for studying. If you need extra help outside of class Ms. Luthers will stay after school for Coach Class **most Tuesdays until 4:00 pm**. Students can also schedule another time with Ms. Luthers if extra help is needed.

Coach Class

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Late Work

It is expected that all assignments are turned in on time. When assignments are late, your participation score will be impacted (see above). Late homework will only be accepted if completed during study hall and submitted the next day. If the homework assignment is returned the next day, students will receive half credit. Other assignments turned in after five days, will not be accepted and you will receive a zero unless absences are excused.

Absences

Students are expected to be in class EVERY DAY ON TIME. Students are responsible for making up work after being absent from class. Once the student returns to school, it is expected that they will find any missing worksheets in the hanging file folder and check the weekly summary board to see what information was missed and what work needs to be made up. After reviewing the summary, students are expected to make up the workbook pages, independent practice, and homework. As we are helping each other grow, students can look to peers first to answer questions.

For each day absent, students have one day to return the missed work for full credit. *For example: if Student is absent for one day, the assignment will be due the following weekday. If Student is absent three days, the assignment will be due within three weekdays.* Turning in late work past the deadline will result in a zero.

Students who miss more than three days in a row must meet with Ms. Luthers to discuss a make-up timeline.

Bathroom / Water Policy

Students are expected to use the bathroom and water fountain before school and during lunch or recess to avoid missing class time. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school that can be filled and carried throughout the day.

Google Classroom

This year we will use Google Classroom. This means that you will use Google Chromebook to complete some assignments during class. Ms. Luthers will upload questions, surveys, worksheets, assessments, and other activities that you will be able to complete and submit all online. You will use your personal @hha47.org login and password to use for managing assignments. Therefore, it is essential that you remember your password. You can learn more at

<https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/classroom/>

Khan Academy

We will often use Khan Academy in class. Khan Academy is a free website that offers support for all grade levels. The website provides videos, explanations, practice problems, and quizzes. This site will be used to work on our fluency, as well as a resource for us to learn in different ways.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

The Algebra I PARCC, which is held in April/May, will cover material on functions, rational and irrational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, and statistics. The benefit of Springboard is that we will be covering each of these PARCC topics in-depth.

Required Supplies for Pre-Algebra*

- 1 Marble Composition Book
- 2 Sharpened pencils
- 3 Pens (one blue, one black, one red)
- 1 3-ring binder, 1.5-inch
- 1 Set of 5 tabbed dividers (for binder)
- 1 College Ruled Filler Paper
- 1 Graph Paper
- 1 3-ring binder, 2-inch (for PORTFOLIO, stored in homeroom)
- 1 Pack of Index Cards
- 1 Box of Tissues
- 1 Post-it Notes
- 1 Lysol Wipes (Optional)

These are the same supplies listed on the Grade 8 Supply List, so if you have already purchased those items you are all set!

Please contact Ms. Luthers if these required supplies create a financial hardship for your family. She has some extra supplies available!

Behavioral Expectations

**Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today.**

- Malcolm X

In addition to Hampstead Hill Academy's school expectations, Ms. Luthers believes that developing a strong character is just as important to learning academic skills when educating young people to be successful in college and career. In fact, a wide body of research proves it!

All students are expected to develop and demonstrate the following traits inside and outside of the classroom:

Grit: Completing something despite obstacles

Zest: Approaching life with excitement

Self-Control: Regulating what one feels and does

Optimism: Expecting the best and working to achieve it

Gratitude: Being aware of and thankful for opportunities and good things

Social Intelligence: Being aware of the motives & feelings of others & self

Curiosity: Taking an interest in learning new things for your own sake

Individual Rewards and Consequences

Examples of Rewards for Positive Behavior	Consequences for Negative Behavior
Verbal Praise Praise Note* Phone call home* Lunch with Teacher Tickets for Weekly Drawings Leaders Go Places Merits Class Points Strong Participation Grade	Verbal Warning Demerit Teacher Conference Restorative Room Referral Seat Change Detention* Family Conference*

**These consequences also involve family communication.*

Class Point System

When the class is meeting expectations during class, the Point Tracker will give the class points on the tracking board. Expectations include, but are not limited to:

Behavior	Points
Efficient transitions	+2
ZESTINESS - active participation, high energy	
100% on-task during assignment	+5
Silent and on-task entry into class	
100% homework completion	
100% on-time attendance	
Appropriate behavior during bathroom break	
Achieve BIG GOAL: 80% on a unit test	+ 15
Achieve BIG GOAL: 85% class average on marking period	+30

The class with the most points at the end of each quarter will decide collaboratively on a fun incentive (donut party, pizza party, ice cream sundaes, trip to the park, etc.).

Class Dojo

Ms. Luthers will use Class Dojo to track student behavior and to communicate with students and parents about positive and negative behaviors. **If you were connected last year it should be already set up and you do not need to re-register. Teachers at HHA also use Class Dojo to communicate when students have detention and study hall after school.** It is incredibly important that parents and guardians connect to Class Dojo to track student progress.

Contacting Ms. Luthers:

You should contact Ms. Luthers whenever you have questions or concerns about anything. First, you **will ask Ms. Luthers in class** if you are having trouble or have a question. If you still have questions you will **go to coach class for extra help**. If you are not at school and have a question or concern, you are encouraged to contact Ms. Luthers on Class Dojo, email her at cluthers@hha47.org, or **call her cell phone (443) 961 - 7065 for emergencies**. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact Ms. Luthers at anytime via email, dojo, or by calling the school. The school phone number is (410) 396-9146.

Contract for Success:

- I have read the course syllabus.
- I understand what Ms. Luthers expects of me in class.
- I know what will happen when I meet expectations.
- I know what will happen if I do not meet expectations.
- I will work hard to be respectful, responsible, organized, and ready to learn.
- I will contribute to our class community during activities, lessons, and discussions.
- I will do the best I can to grow and support the growth of my peers, so we can work to achieve the our best future.

Your Name (Print)

Your Signature

Date

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Believe In Growth (B.I.G)

Growth is defined as the process of developing or maturing physically, mentally, or spiritually. In Algebra this year, we will grow. You will set individual goals for your own academic, social, and professional growth. As a class, we will encourage our peers to grow. With this constant support and encouragement, as well as showing continual perseverance and grit, we will work to reach our goals by the end of the school year.

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Springboard

This year students in Algebra 1 will explore mathematics, make real-life connections, and become college-ready through a new curriculum at Hampstead Hill Academy called Springboard. This program is based on the “Understanding by Design” model, which suggests that beginning instruction with the end in mind is the best way to engage students, make them active learners, and ensure their academic success. The curriculum is built around assessments that are consistent with advanced placement (AP) and college readiness standards. Students are given clear learning objectives that emphasize why each lesson is beneficial.

Through direct lessons, guided lesson, and investigative lessons, students will prepare for quizzes, unit assessments, the NWEA and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). We will use portfolio projects, class discussions, the math workshop model, field trips, debates, and hands-on activities to help us learn.

Students who complete Algebra I Springboard coursework at the end of the year will earn honors-level credit from Baltimore City Public Schools, which adds additional weight to the grade you earn in class.

Course Units

Unit 1: Equations and Inequalities

Unit 2: Functions

Unit 3: Extension of Linear Concepts

Unit 4: Exponents, radicals, and polynomials

Unit 5: Quadratic functions

Unit 6: Statistics and Probability

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Gain an understanding of the properties of real numbers
- Formalize the language of functions
- Explore the behavior of functions numerically, graphically, analytically, and verbally
- Use technology to discover relationships, test conjectures, and solve problems

- Write expressions, equations, and inequalities from physical models
- Communicate mathematics understanding formally and informally
- Use mathematical models
- Collaborate with others
- Challenge others
- Ask questions
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information
- Maintain an organized binder.
- Think critically
- Think about our thinking
- Track assessment data
- Set and meet personal goals
- Model seven essential character traits
- Exemplify the Leaders Go Places Five Promises

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Study Hall

Study hall will take place **every day after school from 2:50 – 3:30 pm**. If you do not complete a homework assignment, you will be required to attend **mandatory** study hall **after school that day**. **Students who submit their late homework the day after study hall** can earn **half credit** for that day's homework grade.

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- I will contribute to our class community during activities, lessons, and discussions.
- I will do the best I can to grow and support the growth of my peers, so we can work to achieve the our best future.

Your Name (Print)

Your Signature

Date