

Hampstead Hill Academy  
**Pre-Algebra Syllabus**

**Mr. Pratta**  
Room 310

**(302) 803-3197**

**bdpratta@hha47.org**  
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.

## **Illustrative Mathematics**

This year all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will explore mathematics, make real-life connections, and become college-ready through an evidence-based curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics. 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 practice, and investigative tasks, students will prepare for quizzes, unit assessments, the NWEA MAP assessment and the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). We will use portfolio projects, class discussions, the math workshop model, field trips, debates, and hands-on activities to help us learn.

## **Course Units**

Unit 1: Exponents, Square Roots/Cubic Roots, Irrational Numbers

Unit 2: Linear Relationships

Unit 3: Linear Expressions and Linear Equations

Unit 4 Linear Systems

Unit 5: General Functions

Unit 6: Volume

Unit 7: Scientific Notation

Unit 8: Pythagorean Theorem

Unit 9: Rigid Transformations and Congruence

Unit 10: Dilation & Similarity

## **Course Objectives**

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

- Write algebraic models from a variety of physical, numeric, and verbal descriptions
- Solve equations using a variety of methods
- Justify answers using precise mathematical language
- Relating constant rate of change to verbal, physical, and algebraic models
- Reinforce and extend the vocabulary of probability and statistics
- Build content knowledge
- Use mathematical models
- Communicate mathematics
- Collaborate with others
- 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 six essential mindsets
- Exemplify LGP promises

## **Grading System**

Your grade is composed of three main components.

- **ASSESSMENTS - 30%**
- **QUIZZES - 30%**
- **CLASSWORK - 20%**
- **HOMEWORK - 10%**
- **PARTICIPATION - 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 maintain a math notebook throughout the year. The math notebook will be used to complete lessons, investigative tasks, and take notes. Along with the math notebook, 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 5. The following are considered when determining your participation score:

- Do Now 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 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 daily for completeness and for accuracy. It is your responsibility to complete homework each night and have it ready to be checked the following day. 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.

### Coach Class

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 Mr. Pratta will stay after school for Coach Class **most Mondays until 4:00 pm**. Students can also schedule another time with Mr. Pratta if extra help is needed.

### **Study Hall**

Students who miss a homework assignment will be eligible for study hall after school that day. If assigned study hall, students must stay after school from 2:50 - 3:30pm and work on missed homework assignments. Students who skip an assigned study hall will be issued a detention for the following day.

### **Late Work & Makeup 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 submitted the next day. If the homework assignment is returned the next day, students will receive half credit. Any work that is submitted after one day 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 Mr. Pratta 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. Mr. Pratta 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/>

## **Edulastic**

We will be using Edulastic to complete nearly all of our assessments this year. Edulastic is an online assessment tool that gives students and teachers a complete and instant view of student learning and growth.

## **IXL**

Independent classwork will be completed using a website called IXL. IXL is a personalized learning platform with a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, individualized guidance, and real-time analytics.

## **Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)**

The Algebra I MCAP, 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\***

- 2 boxes of sharpened pencils (no mechanical pencils)
- 1 package of red pens
- 1 package of blue pens
- 2 packages of dry erase markers
- 1 vinyl folder
- 1 package of wide-rule loose leaf paper
- 1 package of graph paper
- 1 inch binder - 3 ring
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*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 Mr. Pratta if these required supplies create a financial hardship for your family. He has some extra supplies available!**

**Behavioral Expectations**

In addition to Hampstead Hill Academy’s school expectations, Mr. Pratta 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**

<b>Examples of Rewards for Positive Behavior</b>	<b>Consequences for Negative Behavior</b>
Verbal Praise Praise Note* Phone call home* Lunch with Teacher Tickets for Monthly Prizes 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 Dojo**

Mr. Pratta will use Class Dojo to track student behavior and to communicate with students and parents about daily 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 Mr. Pratta:**

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### **Course Units**

Unit 1: Exponents, Square Roots/Cubic Roots, Irrational Numbers

Unit 2: Linear Relationships

Unit 3: Linear Expressions and Linear Equations

Unit 4: Linear Systems

Unit 5: General Functions

Unit 6: Exponential functions, Percentage Problems, Interest Formulas

Unit 7: Polynomial Operations and Factoring

Unit 8: Quadratic Equations

Unit 9: Quadratic Graphing

Unit 10 Statistics

### **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
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Strong Participation Grade	
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