

School Of Engineering and Sciences
2011-2012 School Year

Course: Pre-Algebra

Teacher: Mr. Neil Lum (Email: Neillum@yahoo.com) Room: D-12

Text: Prentice Hall Mathematics California Pre-Algebra 2009

Course content and performance standards: Pre-Algebra is a combination of number sense, algebra and functions, measurement and geometry, statistics, data analysis, and probability, and mathematical reasoning standards. A complete list may be obtained by looking at the website for the California State Department of Education. (<http://cde.ca.gov>)

Grade determination (Per Quarter)

Daily assignments (5 points)	A 90 – 100%
Tests (100 points)	B 80 – 89%
Quizzes (20-30 points)	C 70 – 79%
Notes (100 Points)	*D 60% – 69%*
	F below 60%

*A grade of D will give you the 5 credits, however you may not move on to the next class without a grade of a C- or higher

Why take Pre-Algebra? Pre-Algebra is the foundation for which all mathematics are based on. Not only is this the first step into the world of upper level mathematics, this is also an opportunity to build a successful attitude and work ethic. You will learn arithmetic, mathematical reasoning and the secret to succeeding in all your classes this year and beyond. This will be one of the most important math classes because it will unlock the mysteries of higher level mathematics such as Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus.

Office Hours: My office hours are on Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:30 PM. Any test or quiz missed due to an excused absence may be made up at any one of my office hours within one week of the missed exam or quiz. Office hours are open for any questions or tutoring that one may have regarding my class or any other class I may be able to help you in.

The Mathematics Classroom: This course will be taught using a variety of strategies including direct instruction, guided practice, independent practice, group work, and whole class discussion. Each class will begin with the identification of what is being taught and why it is being taught. Key vocabulary and important concepts are outlined on the board with appropriate examples. Vocabulary terms will also be identified in the context of real problems. Students will be expected to take notes daily and to keep them well organized in a 3 ring binder or notebook.

Homework: Homework will be given everyday, Monday through Thursday. There will be an occasional assignment given on Friday. **No incomplete work** will be accepted. It builds character to at least attempt to solve each problem given. Show that you have tried. All homework must include the correct heading. Homework will be collected at the beginning of

class every day. You will receive 5 points for each complete assignment. Late homework can be turned in for half credit up until the day of the chapter test.

Showing Your Work: It is critical for me to be able to see your thinking process on homework assignments, tests, and quizzes. A calculator is not needed and will not be used in this class. Showing the steps to solving problems are very important to understanding math. Comments such as “But I did it in my head” or “I showed my work but I left the paper at home” will not be accepted. You will be required to write the entire original problem on your paper, then work it out, showing all your steps. Be sure to circle or put a box around your answer. Being able to see the steps you are taking will enable me (and you!) to find your errors and/or give you feedback to your thinking. You will find that the more detailed work you show, the better you will do.

Quizzes: Quizzes are worth **25 points** each. Quizzes can be expected every Friday. If you are absent and miss any quiz, it is your responsibility to make up the quiz. Quizzes must be made up within one week of the assigned date and can be taken in my office hours.

Chapter Tests: Chapter tests will take place at the end of each chapter. Each chapter test is worth **100 points**.

Notes: You will be expected to take notes on a regular basis. Keep your notes and warmups dated and IN ORDER in your spiral bound notebook. Your notes will include key terms and sample problems. Notes are meant for you to use as a resource when doing your homework and preparing for quizzes and tests. Keep them neat and organized. You will turn in your notes on the day of the chapter test. Notes are worth **100 points** for each chapter.

Absences: If a student is absent on the day of the test (and the absence is cleared with the attendance office) the student may take a make-up test. Students may NOT make up any work (tests or assignments) if they are truant or if the absence is unexcused. The Academic Honesty Policy will be enforced – cheating on a test or an unexcused absence on the day of a test is an automatic “0” on that test.

Classroom Expectations and Supplies Needed: Students are expected to come to class every day prepared to work. This includes bringing the following items to class: textbook, 3 ring binder, paper, graph paper, pencil, and a ruler. **NO PENS!**

Citizenship Grades are based on a student’s adherence to the school wide expectations, participation, and attendance (including tardies). The SES handbook rules will be followed to determine citizenship grades.

Academic Grades will be posted on zangle. These will be updated after each test and quiz. Parents and students who wish to check their grades through the internet can check Zangle and log on with your given ID and Password.

Syllabus Questionnaire and Contact Info

Student's Name _____ Date _____
 Period _____ Course _____

Read the course syllabus answer the following questions. Use the back if necessary.

1. What is your math teacher's name?

2. What math class(es) did you take last year and in summer school? Indicate the course name, academic & citizenship grades, and names of school and teacher.

Course Name	Grade Level	Academic Grade	Citizenship Grade	School/Teacher

3. If you are absent for a test and your absence is cleared when can you make up the test?

4. How much of your grade is homework worth(in percent) if we have 40 assignments and the total points for the quarter is 1000?

5. When can late assignments be turned in?

6. What grades (both academic and citizenship) do you expect to earn in this course? How will you achieve them?

Contact Information: Parent/guardian and Student

Parent/Guardian Telephone Number (where you can be reached between 7am and 3pm Mon.-Fri.): (____)_____

Please PRINT your e-mail address below.

_____@_____ (Parent/guardian)

_____@_____ (Student)

I have read this syllabus and understand the classroom policies. I know how citizenship and scholarship grades will be determined in this class.

 Student Name (Printed)

 Student Signature

 Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

 Parent/Guardian Signature