

Cortney Junior High School
8th Grade – Algebra I
Mr. Wilson - Room 716
799-2400
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Course Expectations 2008-2009

Course Scope:

This first-year algebra course is designed for the highly-qualified, motivated student who is committed to a challenging course of study during each year of high school. The development of algebraic strategies to enhance problem-solving skill and the study of structure within the real number system form the basis of this course. The use of technology, especially the graphing calculator, is an integral part of this program. This course will fulfill one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

Course Goals:

1. To develop algebraic models to solve real-world problems including geometry and data analysis.
2. To justify the logic of algebraic procedures using field properties, emphasizing an axiomatic approach.
3. To compare a variety of strategies for solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities.
4. To compare a variety of strategies for solving and graphing systems of equations and inequalities.
5. To correctly use rational and irrational numbers and expressions in problem solving.
6. To solve quadratic equations and inequalities using the quadratic formula and other strategies.
7. To represent and analyze relationships using a variety of tools including functions and matrices.
8. To incorporate technology, including graphing calculators and computer software, as a tool for problem-solving.
9. To develop and enhance problem-solving skills and to promote flexible mathematical thinking in order to describe, analyze, evaluate, and make reasonable decisions using the power of mathematics.
10. To reason and communicate mathematically, in oral and written formats, in order to apply learned concepts to new situations including the ability to make predictions.
11. To exhibit increased confidence in mathematical abilities so that students are encouraged to continue participation in higher-level mathematics classes.
12. To reinforce correct usage of grammar, spelling, neatness and vocabulary.

Course Materials:

The textbook for this course is: McDougal Littell Algebra I.

- Cobra Planner
- Math section in 3-ring binder
- Spiral notebook for notes (one per semester)
- A years supply of #2 pencils (students are to use pencil for all assignments given)
- Colored Pencils, Markers or Crayons for projects (optional)
- Basic calculator with the radical function on it (if possible)

Course Structure:

1. Connections to Algebra: Problem-Solving
2. Properties of Real Numbers
3. Solving Linear Equations
4. Graphing Linear Equations and Functions
5. Writing Linear Equations
6. Solving and Graphing Linear Inequalities
7. Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
8. Exponents and Exponential Functions
9. Quadratic Equations and Functions
10. Polynomials and Factoring
11. Rational Equations and Functions
12. Radicals and Connections to Geometry

COURSE TIMELINE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course Grading:

1. Quarter grades will be computed with 25% for homework, 25% for the notebook; 20% for tests; and 30% for quizzes.
2. A semester exam will be worth 10% of the semester grade, with the balance of the semester grade attributed to the quarter grades (45% per quarter).
3. The grading scale is as follows:

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and below	F
4. Attendance is necessary for participation and is an important component of the learning process. Poor attendance affects student performance and understanding. If a student has more than 10 unapproved absences during one semester, then the student will receive an F and receive a denial of credit for that semester.
5. As this high school level course, students will be expected to rise to that level of performance. The grade that they receive in this class will count toward their high school diploma.

Grade Notification:

1. Updated notices will be posted in the Cobra planner every 3 weeks (upon request only).
2. Grades will be updated on a daily basis on parent link and can be accessed at parentlink.ccsd.net with the user name and password given to you by the school.
3. If you would like a written progress report, 24 hour notice must be given prior to receiving the report.

Citizenship:

All students start each grading period with an “outstanding” citizenship rating. This rating will decrease for one or more of the following reasons: Tardiness to class, classroom disruption/behavior, sleeping in class, unexcused absences, and being unprepared for class.

Behavior Expectations:

1. Respect the rights of others!
 - a. Keep the classroom quiet and orderly
 - b. Do not interrupt others when they are speaking
 - c. Raise your hand to speak
 - d. Be kind to your neighbors
 - e. Do not pack up until the teacher directs you to do so
 - f. Keep the classroom clean
2. Take responsibility for your own learning.
 - a. Come to school daily
 - b. Be on time to class
 - c. Bring all materials every day
 - d. Be attentive in class
 - e. Turn in daily assignments when they are due
3. Follow all school and district rules.
 - a. Follow dress codes
 - b. No eating, drinking or grooming in class
 - c. Take care of school property
 - d. The school’s new COBRA program will be strictly enforced (no backpacks allowed in the classroom – more details are available in the Cobra Planner)
 - e. Additional school rules can be found in the Cobra Planner

Tardy Policy:

- First: Verbal warning
Second: Teacher’s detention
Third: Letter sent to parent
Fourth: U given in citizenship/Phone call home
Fifth: Dean’s referral; RPC (Required Parent Conference) for disregard of school rules

Homework Policy:

Homework is assigned on a regular basis Monday through Thursday with an occasional Friday assignment. It is highly recommended that you check your child's homework to see if it has been completely done on a daily basis. Assignments must be done in pencil; any assignments that are not done in pencil will not receive full credit. All homework assignments must also have all work shown. NO WORK = NO CREDIT.

Notes:

Notes and vocabulary will be taken for each chapter or unit discussed during the course of the year. Students must come prepared with their notebooks, and ready to take new notes everyday. Notes may be collected and graded randomly and will count for a grade, so students should always have them prepared. Two notebooks will be used during the course of the year, one for each semester. The format for note taking is Cornell style.

Make-up Work:

All make-up work is due 3 days after an approved absence, and it is the responsibility of the student to find out what they missed. It is the responsibility of the student to get all make-up work from the teacher for pre-arranged absences. Missed quizzes and tests must also be made up within 3 days of an approved absence, before or after school, Monday through Thursday.

Discipline Plan:

I have in place a progressive discipline plan for infractions of the classroom expectations. Keep in mind that students will be sent directly to the Dean for severe infractions. The discipline plan is as follows:

1. Verbal Warning
2. One-on-one teacher/student conference
3. Teacher's detention and phone call home
4. Parent phone call and letter or conference
5. Referral to Dean

Parent / Teacher Communication:

During the school year, I encourage you to contact me to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about your child's progress in my math class. You may leave a message on my voicemail by calling 799-2400 or email me at wilsorf@ccsd.net Please leave a detailed message that includes your name, your child's name, the reason for your call or email, and a telephone number or email address that you can be reached at.

