



Course Description

Algebra II Common Core
Bronx Envision Academy
2018 - 2019
Ludovici

Overview

Welcome to Algebra 2, a math course ending in one of the most challenging NYS Regents examinations on Friday, June 21, 2019 at 1 pm. For Juniors, completing this state exam successfully will make colleges take notice of you as an exceptional student, greatly improving your college admission and scholarship prospects. For Seniors, doing well in this course will greatly help you in college math, likely saving you the time and expense of a remedial math course. The Algebra II Regents exam positions everyone for an advanced diploma. This course helps everyone develop the teamwork and self-responsibility skills needed to succeed in life.

Success in this class depends entirely on you, just like in college. You are responsible for your own learning, minute by minute, class by class, week by week. It is a great chance to practice the skills needed to do well in college.

New York State uses a different curve for every Regents exam. This past June and August, scoring 26 points out of 86 possible points earned a passing grade of 65. 39 points earned a 75. 64 or 65 points earned an 85. Almost all of our work will focus on actual Regents questions.

Your Teacher – Mr. Ludovici

It takes me a while to get to know people and it takes even longer to understand who you really are. But eventually we will succeed and create good relationships. I might be the oldest person in the building. Last year someone younger than me retired. My hearing is not the best so you need to speak loudly and control excess noise. It is difficult for me to pick up things from the floor, so please don't leave anything there. I have four children and four grandchildren. I sometimes run marathons and often bicycle to school. My email is gludovici@bronxenvision.org

How to Succeed in this Class

- Come to class daily and be on time.
- Keep working and trying even when you are frustrated, tired, not having a good day, etc.
- Cooperate, help and get help from other students at your table. Keep each other focused.
- Do homework every day. It is an important habit, one you will need in college.
- When you get work back, check Google Classroom to see the correct answers and make sure that you really understand it.

Grades

Grades are on PupilPath, updated at least weekly. Talk with your advisor if you have difficulty getting into your PupilPath account. There are three grade categories: classwork (20%), homework (30%) and tests (50%).

Seating

To give everyone a chance to work with everyone as much as possible seating changes every day. The seats are randomly assigned except that people with chronic attendance issues are assigned to the last seats in the room. Anyone not at their assigned table will receive a zero on their classwork for the day.

Classwork – Counts as 20% of your grade

Classwork is your opportunity to discuss and share with each other, but not while someone is speaking to the whole class. It is your goal to make sure everyone at your table understands the work. Think of your class as a team, only as strong as its weakest link. By helping each other you will improve your own knowledge, make it easier for the whole class to keep learning and build respect and understanding for each other, forming relationships that may last a lifetime.

Classwork is group (table) based, everyone in your group gets the same grade. Classwork **must** be handed in at the end of class, even if incomplete, otherwise it counts as a zero. Paperclip all four of your group's papers together and put them in a pile on the teacher's desk. **Only the worst paper will be graded.** Your grade will be on PupilPath, not on your paper. A missing paper (for someone in your group who was not absent) counts as the worst paper which is then a zero for everyone in your group. Someone sitting in the wrong group will create a zero that day for 8 people: him/her self, the 3 other people in the group and the four people where he/she was supposed to sit. The only exception is when the teacher asks people to move to a different seat which usually happens if groups are small due to absences.

Classwork answers will be posted on Google Classroom at the end of the next class day.

It is very important that each student check his or her work every day to make sure you understand how each problem can be done. Doing this leads to better test grades. A volunteer can pass back the prior day's work from the class folder but not while anyone is speaking to the class.

If you are absent you can still gain full credit by acting quickly. During your absence download the day's worksheet from Google Classroom, complete it and hand it in during the first two minutes of class when you return. Any work from an absent person handed in after the first two minutes of class when s/he returns will have a 30% grade reduction and must be handed in on the first or second day back or there is no credit. Non-absent people cannot get credit for missed work.

It is possible to divide class work among the members of your table, with each person doing a different part. But you need to save time before class ends to share and explain results with each other so that everyone has a fully complete paper.

Rubric for Classwork

Mark	Value	Description
Check Plus Plus	100	Very neat and easy to follow. All work is thoroughly completed.
Check Plus	85	Most of the work is complete and easy to follow
Check	70	At least half the work is complete and it is mostly readable
Check Minus	55	Minimal effort and/or difficult to follow and/or answers without supporting work
none	0	Assignment not handed in or almost no work shown

Notes:

- Credit is given for effort not just for being correct. Anytime you are wrong, figure out why and learn from it. **Most of us are initially wrong most of the time!** Mistakes should still be readable, cross them out with a single line or an X. Do not use white out, scribble, or erase.
- Copying or rewriting a problem is discouraged and does not increase your score. It often lowers a score due to transcription errors.
- When teachers grade neat papers they often give the benefit of any doubt to the student.

Elmo / Document Camera – Extra Points

Your group can get extra credit by explaining any of the day's problems to the class. Do this by showing the completed work on the Elmo by the teacher's desk. Everyone in your group that goes to the front gets a point. The people who do the talking get two points. Points are used at the end of the making period to improve grades. Inappropriate classroom behavior results in negative points. Correcting any mistake made by the teacher earns a point.

Homework – Counts as 30% of your grade

Homework is assigned at least weekly on www.deltamath.com. The teacher code is 756786. Access to the internet is required, it can be done with a smartphone, but is much easier with a computer. Full credit is given for work completed by 11:50 PM on its due date. 75% late credit is given for work completed by 2:40 PM on the last day of the marking period. No credit is given after that. Doing homework as early as possible will help with classwork and tests. With consistent effort, it is reasonable to always get 100% on homework grades.

Tests – Count as 50% of your grade

We will have a short test every week. It will be during the 2nd half of the period on the day before the last school day of the week. Our first test will be on Thursday the 13th, next week. It will cover the 3 days of class we have this week. Tests will not include material from the day before the test, but they can include anything else we have covered all year. Tests are an individual effort. Test makeup is entirely the student's responsibility and must be done outside of class within two days of returning to school. A zero is assigned for any test not quickly made up. Since NYS curves Regents exam grades, our test grades are also curved and posted to PupilPath. Tests without showing any significant effort count as a zero. Use of a cell phone or a smart watch during testing results in a zero.

Multiple Choice Questions

For class tests, a correct answer with supporting work is worth full credit. A correct answer without work is worth half credit. An incorrect answer with some good work is worth partial credit. A correct answer with inappropriate work is worth no credit.

Rules

- Imagine it is 20 years from now and you have a son or daughter in this class. Do everything you can to help create an environment where s/he can succeed. You are becoming adults. Think and act like the calm hardworking adults you respect, the ones who show caring and self-control.
- Sign-out on the clipboard by the door when leaving the room.
- If you eat in class: 1) be careful to clean up all messes and 2) Work while you eat. Do not eat if you can't work at the same time. No glass bottles.
- Follow school and DOE rules.

Supplies

- Access to the Internet (home, library, BEA after school, relative, neighbor, smartphone)
- Multiple pens and/or pencils, **sharpen pencils before not during class discussions**. Admitting that you do not have a writing instrument 10 minutes after class has already started is a big mistake. You are actually saying that you are not serious about the class and do not care about your grade.
- Thin three ring binder to keep current work and notes. Keep older work at home in a different binder.
Successful students are organized. A binder allows handouts to be kept together in order with notes. Students who use a spiral notebook tend to lose the handouts.
- Having a TI-84 calculator at home is nice. You can do homework without it as Delta Math includes an on-line calculator.

Field Trips, Excused absences

- Our class does not have any field trips planned
- On days when you miss class due to a field trip you are still responsible for the work we did in class. If more than half of the class is on the field trip then we usually have a homework catch-up day for the people not on the trip.