



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Algebra 1. I look forward to working with you this year to ensure a positive and successful experience. As a first step toward this goal, please read through this course outline. It contains important information about this course. I also look forward to seeing you at Back-to-School night August 29th.

Course Description:

Algebra 1 is a **required** course for graduation. Another math class cannot take its place. We are teaching from the Common Core State Math Standards. This course meets the California University A-G Requirements.

10 Math Credits will be awarded for successful completion of this course with a 60% (D-) or better. Completion of this course allows your child to go on to Geometry (C or better).

Needed Materials:

You will be using the following supplies just for this course on a **DAILY** basis:

- Ruler
- Pens, Pencils & Highlighters
- Calculator TI – 30xa

Course Grading Policy:

Your course grade will be determined on:

- 10% - Class Participation
- 70% - Assessments, Quizzes and Performance Task
- 20% - End of semester test

The new Common Core Math Standards calls for students to problem solve and explain their thinking through writing. This can be tough, however I believe that math skills are developed over time and that all students can be proficient problem solvers when given that time.

Course Grading Scale:

A - 90%	C - 70%	F – 59% or
B - 80%	D - 60%	below

Course Expectations:

1. **Practice work:**

Practice work will be assigned daily following each lesson and is expected to take between 20-40 minutes. Practice work is to be completed in the course notebook and will be self-corrected by the students from the answer key in the book or by checking answers in class. Students should use practice work to prepare for their quizzes.

2. **Behavior:**

Be present and on time, seated in your assigned seat with supplies out, ready to learn. Show respect! Students who are habitually tardy, missing supplies, wasting time, being disrespectful, or disrupting class will receive discipline in accordance with school and district policy.

District Attendance Policy:

- a. California Education Code states students are habitually truant after three unexcused absences (EC 48260).
- b. The LEUSD School Board believes that more than five unexcused absences per semester are excessive and may result in a failing grade.

3. **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices (cell phones/iPod) are **never** allowed out during my class unless I have given special permission.

- 1st time – I take it, return it, and give a warning.
- 2nd time – I take it, return it and e-mail or call home.
- 3rd time – I take it and turn it in to the office for parent pick up.

* A cell phone out during a test will result in a **zero** score.

Parent Contact @ Grades:

Grades are updated weekly on Infinite Campus. Parents should obtain a log-in password from the office. Progress reports are issued every 9 weeks. Report cards are issued at the end of each semester. Extra copies can be obtained at the office.

The best way to contact me is by e-mail!!!

selwyn.folkes@leusd.k12.ca.us

Procedures:

When entering the classroom, please be seated at your assigned seat and prepare yourself for classwork. After the Tardy Bell, complete the Modeling Activity independently and quietly. Make sure to write your name, date and period on your paper to receive full credit. During Instruction, please give the teacher your full attention. This means that you do not talk while the teacher is talking, wait to be recognized by the teacher before you begin speaking, and do not start activity until the teacher gives you the signal to begin. During Group Activity, you will be assigned to a team. Within your team you will be assigned a duty. You should not be engaged in side bar conversation during team activities. All team members must focus on the task at hand and you must contribute proportionally to your team. Also, if I raise my hand, you must stop talking and face me. For Class Dismissal, I will inform you when to clean up your work area before giving permission to leave the classroom.

Help for students who struggle with Algebra:

Students today have more resources available to help than at any time in history. Here is a list of places students should seek help when needed:

1. Call a friend from class or "study buddy".
2. Access tutorial videos on www.brightstorm.com or www.khanacademy.com
3. Go see Mr. Folkes at break or lunch (as long as it's before the work is due).
4. Stay after school and do homework in my room while I work on grade (**not** formal tutoring – just homework help.)

After you have read and discussed the class expectations with your student, sign the form below:

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

I look forward to having your student in my class. Please feel free to email me should you have any concerns or questions at any time. Email is the BEST way to contact me as our phone system typically does not inform us that you have called. I am looking forward to a wonderful year and expect good things from your student!

As the instructor I will:

- Encourage your student to be an active learner, which often means being willing to discuss new ideas and make mistakes to aid in the learning process.
- Prepare and present clear and meaningful lessons meeting the Common Core Standards for Algebra.
- Provide feedback on a regular basis to support academic progress.
- Provide extra help for students at selected times.

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the student I will:

- Be in my seat on time, every day and **complete all assignment** from the previous day and be ready to work with all necessary supplies.
- Take care of personal needs (phone calls, drinks, food, and restroom) before the start of class.
- Be respectful to all class members and Mr. Folkes during class.
- Ask for work missed from verified absences and arrange to make-up missed tests after school or during another period. (I understand I will not be allowed to make up tests during class.)
- Ask for help when I do not understand.
- Seek out extra, outside-of-class help, if needed, to support learning.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the parent I will:

- Check my student's assignments for completion. (nightly if necessary)
- Help my student locate help on assignments when needed.
- Periodically check grades on Infinite Campus and know when to expect progress reports.
- Alert Mr. Folkes if special circumstances arise that would affect my student's success in this course.
- Contact Mr. Folkes via e-mail with any questions.
- Alert the school when or if I change my e-mail or home/cell phone number.
- ***Check with the school from time to time to make sure the school has my correct information.***

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____