



P.S. duPont Middle School

Course Syllabus

Name of Course: Gifted Honors Algebra

Department:

Mathematics

School Year: 2019-2020

Name of Teacher:

Mrs. Sabrina Fitzhugh

Email: Sabrina.fitzhugh@bsd.k12.de.us

Website: www.brandywineschools.org/Page/2708

I. Required Materials

Each student will need at least 2 graph paper spiral notebooks and a 1½ inch 3-ring binder that is only used for math. All warm-up exercises, notes, classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests, should be ordered by date and kept in the binder. **Besides the binder and the spiral notebooks, students must bring loose leaf paper, pencils, and a ruler to class every day.** Graph paper will be needed daily starting in Chapter 4. Being prepared for class means having the required materials on your desk when the bell rings.

II. Homework Expectations

Homework assignments will be given almost every night (including weekends). These assignments will be due the next class period. Since we are on a block schedule, I suggest doing the math homework in two parts over the two nights before the next class. It is the responsibility of an absent student to get any missed assignments from Mrs. Fitzhugh's teacher page or by seeing her before or after school. Missed work must be made up within the number of days allowed under Brandywine School District policy. Messy or incomplete work will not receive credit. Pride and the appropriate amount of time should be given to each assignment. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that his/her work is presentable and completed as instructed. **Pencil is the only acceptable writing instrument in Mrs. Fitzhugh's class.** Any class work or homework done in pen will not be given credit.

III. Grading Policy and Expectations

Grades will be based on homework, quizzes, unit tests, and cumulative assessments. 30% of the marking period grade will be based on formative assessments and 70% will be based on summative assessments.

It is expected that students take all quizzes and tests home to be signed by a parent/guardian. It is also expected that students correct any missed problems before returning the corrected and signed assessment to Mrs. Fitzhugh.

If a student scores below 80% (below a B average) on any quiz or test, after school arrangements should be made as soon as possible to review the material.

IV. Daily classroom instruction will consist of:

- Reviewing concepts from the previous day's lesson and answering questions
- Presenting new content or extending topics from a previous lesson
- Individual/whole group practice with the new content

V. **Learning resources utilized during this course will include:**

- Text: *Larson Algebra I* (Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff)
- Visit www.classzone.com or www.kahnacademy.org for free online help/practice.
- Every child has free access to this website: www.ixl.com/signin/psdms.

VI. **Other important items specific to this course:**

- Math is fun! Yes, I really believe that. In addition to math skills, I will be emphasizing good life long habits of learning like persistence, impulse control, inquisitiveness, reflection, and respect for others.
- Algebra is an intense program designed for the honors students in our district. I would like to see as many students as possible find success in the honors track throughout high school. Pre-requisite skills must be mastered before success in Algebra can be found. There must also be a commitment from both student and parent to completing all of the assignments and seeking help immediately when needed. If your child struggles this year, be willing to talk with me and work with me to find the reason for the difficulty. The sooner the problems can be identified, the greater the likelihood that we can work together to assure success in this course.
- The Parallel Curriculum Model (PCM) is used to guide lesson development and decision making for this course. All lessons can be tied to at least one of the four Parallels (Core, Connections, Practice, and/or Identity)

VII. **Homework Procedures**

**** Before you start your homework, please read through your notes! ****

1. Put the assignment number, page number, and the problem numbers on the top line (left) of every sheet of paper you use. **The front of the page has the holes on the LEFT.**
2. Copy the original problem exactly as it appears in the textbook. Copy any diagrams, but do not copy word problems. We will have a different procedure for word problems.
3. Show all your steps **VERTICALLY** putting “equal sign under equal sign”.
4. Circle or box in your final answer. Word problems must be answered with a sentence.
5. Skip a line (or two) between problems. Write on the back of the paper.
6. Check the website or back of the book to check your answers before coming to class.
7. If you get stuck on a particular problem, copy the problem, and circle it.

Before you skip any problems, make sure that you have

- A. Reread your notes and examples from class
- B. Looked at the examples in your notebook

After doing all these things, if you are getting totally frustrated, write down specific questions of what is confusing you and we will clear it up in school the next day. Put your math away and do something else!!

VIII. **Course Sequence and Assignments**

Homework assignments will be posted daily on my teacher page. Please go to www.brandywineschools.org/Page/2708. I will also post notes and worksheets as well.