

**ALGEBRA I (Level 2)
REQUIREMENTS AND
GRADING RATIONALE**

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Introduction: This course is designated to prepare students for college level courses requiring abstract reasoning and college preparatory courses in mathematics. Emphasis is placed on an algebraic approach to problem solving and skills of algebra. Students will learn to represent numbers with letters and then expand the laws of arithmetic to include operations with variables. Topics include operations with signed numbers, polynomials, linear and quadratic equations and graphing.

As a student in Mr. LaChance’s class, you are expected to follow these requirements:

- Arrive to class on time. There will be consequences for tardiness, per school policy.
- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Use appropriate language and behavior at all times.
- Follow all school policies, rules, and regulations. Students are responsible for knowing and following the rules listed in the Parent & Student Handbook.
- Raise your hand and wait for the teacher to call on you before asking or answering questions.
- No food in class.
- Follow the teacher’s instructions.
- Respect the teacher, your peers, and yourself.

Consequences resulting from breaking classroom rules include Warnings, Meetings with the Teacher, Teacher Detentions, Office Detentions, and Referrals to Administration. Parents will also be contacted.

Severe disruptions or behavior problems will result in an immediate escalation in the level of consequences.

Tools: The following tools are required for each day of class:

- covered textbook (Foerster, Paul A. *Algebra I: Expression, Equations and Applications*. Addison Wesley. 2006)
- 3-ring binder (notebook) with completed homework and extra paper
- pencil
- calculator (**TI-83 Plus** or **TI-84 Plus graphing calculator** is *recommended*; any brand of **scientific calculator** is acceptable – Examples: Casio FX-260, Casio FX-300, TI-30X, etc.)

Grades: Your grade for each quarter will be determined in the following manner:

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| ➤ Assessments (tests, quizzes, written assignments, projects) | 70% |
| ➤ Daily Homework and Classwork | 20% |
| ➤ Notebook | 10% |

The **first semester grade** consists of:

First Quarter	40%
Second Quarter	40%
Midterm Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

The **second semester grade** consists of:

Third Quarter	40%
Fourth Quarter	40%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Extra Help: If you fall behind or are confused regarding the concepts covered, you should seek extra help. Extra help is available before and after school. **Please let Mr. LaChance know in advance when you would like to seek extra help and he will let you know where he will be.**

Mr. LaChance's Usual Availability for Extra Help:

Before school:	6:45 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.	Math Office (Rm 214) or Rm 211
After school MTWR:	2:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Math Office (Rm 214) or Rm 202

Assessments: Students will be assessed in a variety of ways. Tests will be administered at the end of each unit, while quizzes will be administered intermittently throughout a unit and may be announced or unannounced. Written assignments will be assessed when applicable. Other assessments may include performance-based tasks or journals. **You will not be allowed to retake any assessment.**

Absences: It is your responsibility to obtain and make up all missed work. If you are absent, find out what work was missed, get notes from a classmate, and hand in the missing assignment(s). The complete Attendance Policy is in the Student Handbook.

Make arrangements with the teacher to make up missed assessments. Assessments missed due to an excused absence must generally be made up within **three days** of your return to school. Exceptions to this will be at the discretion of the teacher, provided the student has contacted him within three days of their return to school.

Exams: A comprehensive Mid-Term and Final Exam will be administered in accordance with school policy.

Homework: Homework is a vital part of learning mathematics because it allows you to practice and refine the concepts learned during class. With few exceptions, homework will be assigned during each class period. Homework will be checked and graded for effort/completion on a random basis. **Support work and/or sketches must accompany the answers to all problems in order to be considered complete.** It is understood that part of each homework assignment is a revision of incorrect responses or work.

Each homework assignment will have the following as a heading:

- Student name - Period - Page number and Exercise numbers
- Date

Homework quizzes may be randomly administered throughout each quarter.

3-Ring Binder (Notebook): The purpose of a 3-ring notebook is to help you organize the content of this course. It is believed that this organization will help promote success throughout the year. Notebooks will be assessed on a regular basis during the quarter. Notebook quizzes may be randomly administered.

Notebooks will contain the following separate sections:

- **Grading Rationale:** A copy of this document will be the first item seen in the notebook.
- **Assessments:** All tests, quizzes, writing assignments, and projects that have been graded will be collected in this section.
- **Calculator:** All calculator tutorial-related handouts and any calculator labs will be placed here.
- **Class Notes/
Homework:** All class work, explorations, written assignments, notes regarding class discussion, and homework shall be included in this section. Each day's work shall begin on a new sheet of paper with the date and objective of the class listed at the top of the page. All associated notes and work will follow. The homework assigned for that night will be on a new sheet of paper and will be identified by page number(s) and problem number(s).

Technology: The Texas Instruments TI-83 Plus or TI-84 Plus graphing calculator will be used periodically to illustrate concepts in this course. It is recommended (but not required) that each student purchase his/her own TI-83 or TI-84 Plus calculator and bring it to class every day.

Communication: Every student and parent/guardian is welcome to e-mail or call the teacher if questions or concerns arise. In most cases there will be a response within 24 hours.

Mission Statement:

We believe our role as educators at RHAM High School is to provide all students with the foundation upon which to develop academic integrity, intellectual vitality, emotional maturity, personal wellness, cultural respect, global awareness and personal character. It is our goal that all students will develop into life-long learners who possess the essential core knowledge and the critical, creative, analytical and reflective skills necessary to think, listen, collaborate and communicate effectively.

To achieve this, we are committed to working with the community to provide the curricular and co-curricular opportunities necessary to meet the academic, social, emotional, artistic, physical and vocational needs of our students. We are committed to providing instruction which will address differing ability levels, learning styles and interests, and which incorporates task appropriate tools. Additionally, we are committed to providing an intellectually, emotionally and physically safe and supportive learning environment for all students.