

Algebra 1 2015-2016

Mrs. Atkinson 729-5537 (Room #206)

atkinson@owosso.k12.mi.us

Text @ohsmath15 to (989) 414-4994 for class reminders



Welcome:

Welcome to my class and Algebra 1. This is my second year teaching at OHS but my eighth year in the district. I look forward to working with you and your student this year! A strong foundation in basic math concepts will be an asset in this course. Algebra 1 will be the foundation for further math courses. Good note taking and faithful practice will be necessary for continued success in this course and in the future. Seek help early and often if needed.

Course Description:

This class is designed to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirement for Algebra One. The purpose of this course is to build the foundation for all future math courses. The class is application motivated, technology integrated and concepts that will be covered include: integers and operations, expressions and equations, data analysis, graphing lines, operations with functions, exponents and radicals, polynomials and quadratics.

IB Overview:

International Baccalaureate (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. There are more than 700,000 IB students in more than 130 countries throughout the world. In essence, IB is a different way of approaching education. It is employed to organize cross-curricular units to give students a broader perspective of course content. Its main goal is to increase student awareness of global issues and better prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century. This course will still follow the Michigan Merit Curriculum based on the State of MI High School Content Expectations, but will also implement IB principles.

The aim of all IB programs is to develop students who strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective. The traits of IB Learner start with the home and extend to every learning opportunity so students will develop their awareness of, and sensitivity to, the experiences of others beyond the local or national community.

Required Materials:

- Composition Notebook – for taking notes (No textbook)
- Folder – for handouts and homework
- Pencils - sharp and ready to go

- Calculator (optional)
- Highlighters/colored pencils/markers (optional)
- Glue stick (optional)
- Scissors (optional)
- Ruler (optional)

Classroom Expectations:

1. Polite: Respect others, classroom materials, and yourself; Do you **own** work
2. Prepared: Have required materials every day!
3. Prompt: Be in your seat when the bell rings with needed materials for the day
4. Productive: Do work when asked and do not disrupt others' learning
5. Positive: Kind and positive words only!
6. Participate: Participate in class discussions and answer questions when called on

All school rules and guidelines apply and will be enforced in the class. Please see your student handbook.

Discipline:

The general disciplinary code as found in the student handbook will be followed. Specific classroom discipline problems will be handled personally first and then will involve office or parent consultations.

- First offense: Verbal Warning
- Second offense: Seat change/Teacher conference
- Third offense: Parent contact
- Fourth offense: Office referral

Procedures:

- We will not use a textbook for this course. Instead students must have a composition notebook that must be brought to class **EVERY DAY**. If you are not able to purchase your own, please let me know and I will provide you with one.
- There will be quizzes at the end of each section. You can expect a quiz every week to two weeks.
- You will have a weekly homework assignment assigned every Monday that is due the following Monday.
- Hall passes are for emergencies only and you **must have your INB**. Each student will receive **a limited amount** of hall passes for the semester. Use them wisely; once you are out you will not receive any more.

Cheating:

Cheating will NOT be tolerated!! It is expected that students do their own work. If a student has copied or in some other fashion has obtained answers to homework, quizzes, or tests he/she will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. This policy will be in effect for all quizzes and assignments. If cheating occurs more than once, a referral will be sent to the office.

Grading:

The semester grade will reflect the accomplishments of the student over the entire 18-week semester. The grades in the class will be recorded as points possible and points achieved. Whenever it becomes necessary to convert the points into letter grades, the following scale will be used:

A	100% - 93%	C+	79% - 77%	D-	62% - 60%
A-	92% - 90%	C	76% - 73%		
B+	89% - 87%	C-	72% - 70%		Below 60% is unsatisfactory
B	86% - 83%	D+	69% - 67%		(F)
B-	82% - 80%	D	66% - 63%		

It is the responsibility of the student to keep up on the assignments and be ready to take the quizzes on schedule. Each student is responsible for keeping track of their own grades using **Power School**. Grades will occasionally be posted in class or passed out to students.

If you lose credit due to absences, but earned a passing grade, you will receive a NC (No Credit) for the semester. NC will result in repeating this course!

Retesting:

Students will be allowed to retake quizzes (no mini quizzes) only under the following conditions -

- a. the student has completed all homework assignments prior to testing
- b. the original score was below 80%
- c. the maximum score on the retest is 80% (mastery level) - the higher score of the two tests will be kept
- d. the retest must be taken **before or after school** and it must be scheduled with me at least a day in advance
- e. a re-take form is signed and turned in to me prior to retaking the assessment
- f. NO retakes allowed on final exams.

Make-up Work:

Make up quizzes will be scheduled with the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to make the arrangements when the student returns from an absence. Make up quizzes may vary from the quiz given at the regularly scheduled times. If you have a known absence (i.e. vacation, field trip, etc.) you will be expected to complete the work before you leave unless arrangements are made with me. These absences include all school activities. If a quiz is missed due to absence only on the quiz day, it will be made up on the day the student returns to school. Students should check the "Absent Work" folder to receive all assignments that were given while absent and check with a classmate to determine what was missed and to get the notes.

Graphing Calculators:

Graphing calculators will be an integral part of this class. Students will be shown basic and advanced functions of the calculators. Students may use my graphing calculators for quizzes and assignments while in class, but they cannot take them home. Students can purchase their own for home use. The math department suggests using the Casio 9750 (with a screen for graphing) as they will be using this throughout their high school career.

Technology Policy:

Students will not be allowed to have personal electronic devices in class (cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc.) per the student handbook. If a student is caught with a device it will be taken and will need to be picked up after school. The first offence will be a warning. Your second offence (and all others) will result in a referral to the office and an email/phone call home.

School owned technology (iPads and computers) will be used frequently in class. Students are expected to use technology properly. If a student fails to comply, they will be given an alternate assignment and not be allowed to use technology.

Extra Help:

I will be available before or after school for extra help if needed. Please let me know ahead of time so I can guarantee that I will be available. My weekly availability will be posted in class. After school and lunch tutoring are also available.

Contact Information:

The best way to contact me is via email at atkinson@owosso.k12.mi.us as I check it frequently throughout the day. You may also call me at (989) 729-5537. All calls go straight to voicemail during class hours, so please leave me a voicemail with your name and number and I will call you back as soon as possible. Calendar of assignments and class updates are available on my website at <http://aatkinson.weebly.com/> (there is also a link available on the Owosso Public School website under staff.) You may also sign up for class reminders by texting @ohsmath15 to (989) 414-4994.

Please return this page to me. (To be completed by parent/guardian)

I have read through the syllabus and am aware of the classroom expectations. I understand the guidelines that are expected to be followed and the grading policy.

Hour

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

If any issue arises with your student, who is the best person to contact:

Name: _____ Relationship to student _____

Please indicate the **best way** to contact you regarding your student (Check one):

Phone (_____) _____
Phone Number Best time to call

Email _____
Email Address

Other _____

When would you like to be contacted? (Check all that apply)

I would like to be contacted if my student's grade drops below _____%.

I would like to be contacted if my student fails _____ quizzes.

I would like to be contacted if my student has their phone in class. (* 2nd offense is call home/referral)

I would like to be contacted if _____.

Is there anything else that Mrs. Atkinson should know about your student?

(Feel free to answer on the back of this sheet, email atkinson@owosso.k12.mi.us, or call 989-729-5539)