

NOUVEL CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

ALGEBRA ESSENTIALS

COURSE SYLLABUS 2017-18

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| COURSE DESCRIPTION: | <p>The aim of this course is to strengthen learners' mathematical skills that are essential for understanding Algebra-based mathematics. This course may be slightly different for each learner, with modifications due to each learner's already mastered skills and areas of mathematical weakness.</p> <p>The course content will include a conceptual understanding of operations with integers, fractions, decimals and percents and positive and negative numbers, which will then be expanded to include expressions with variables: monomials, polynomials, simple equations and simple inequalities. Throughout the course, learners will apply the mathematical concepts to real world problems.</p> <p>The learner will be expected to take Algebra 1 or Honors Algebra 1 after completing this course.</p> <p>Grades offered: 9</p> <p>Prerequisites: None</p> |
| MAJOR COURSE GOALS: | <p>Algebra Essentials is a class that meets the needs of individual students based on assessment of conceptual understanding and current skills in each topic. Specific content standards are determined for students based on results of those assessments. The learner will work toward conceptual understanding and skill proficiency in the following areas: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers, algebraic modeling of real-life situations, factoring, variables, monomials, polynomials, linear equations, linear inequalities, and graphing on a coordinate plane. (Note: Some students will study further algebraic topics.)</p> |
| COURSE ASSESSMENT PLAN: | <p>In-class informal assessment of understanding will occur every day within the context of the instructional time. The purpose of these assessments is to determine each student's current level of mastery of major concepts.</p> <p>Each major topic will include one or two written tests. After every test, the class will go through an in-depth analysis of errors and students will be expected to retest on content that is not yet mastered. Students will take short quizzes occasionally during the unit to help the student and the teacher to assess understanding of concepts. Quizzes are not graded, but should be approached with the same level of preparation as tests because of the feedback they provide.</p> |

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| | <p>Marking period grades will be determined by the percentage of total points earned from assignments, tests, quizzes, in-class work and any project work that has been assigned.</p> <p>Extra credit problems may be included on tests or offered to students during the course. All students are encouraged to do extra credit problems, which can deepen their learning. The teacher will NOT create extra credit assignments at the end of the marking period to boost a student's grade.</p> |
| <p>SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NEEDED:</p> | <p>The learner is expected to have the following supplies in class every day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paper ○ Pencil or pen (Pencils are preferred but not required.) ○ Dry-erase marker ○ Textbook: Algebra Essentials ○ 3 ring binder to store all handouts that are 3 hole punched (This binder does not have to be dedicated solely for Algebra Essentials class.) |
| <p>EXTRA HELP:</p> | <p>A student who needs help outside of class time should talk to the teacher as soon as possible to schedule a meeting either before or after school. Because of the teacher's job obligations at NCCE, meetings outside of class time must be scheduled in advance.</p> <p>If a student needs extra help outside of the time when the teacher is available, the student can get help from any other math teacher or work with the teacher to arrange tutoring.</p> |
| <p>INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY:</p> | <p>Each learner must finish this class with the requisite knowledge and conceptual understandings for success in Algebra based mathematics, so the class will become individualized at times. The teacher will work with each learner to identify skill areas that need to be strengthened and develop a plan that will guide the learner's progress. Some learners may test out of certain topics by showing mastery, while other learners may spend more time than the class on certain topics. Class time will be spent in whole class and small teaching groups, with hands-on activities and partner work at times.</p> |
| <p>MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:</p> | <p>This class will include a combination of individual, group and partner work during class time, including warm-ups, board work, practice problems, group investigations, hands-on activities, etc. that will allow students to learn the concepts in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to try a variety of problems and ask questions during class time and may have time at the end of some classes to begin working on their homework assignment.</p> |

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| <p>CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:</p> | <p>The learner is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be prepared with all supplies and a focused attitude <u>when the bell rings.</u> ○ Contribute positively to the learning environment in the classroom. ○ Ask questions and seek out help when confused. ○ Show respect for yourself, fellow students, teachers, administrators and others by your words and actions. ○ Respect all personal and school property. ○ Set high expectations for your own performance and help others to achieve their high expectations. ○ Be in compliance with the dress code at all times. |
| <p>HOMEWORK POLICY AND GRADING SCALE:</p> | <p>Homework allows the learner to practice new skills and improve understanding of new (or old!) concepts. There may be times when the student is not sure that the homework has been done correctly, but all problems should be worked on anyway. Mistakes and misconceptions are part of the learning process and will ultimately help a student to learn the correct processes and conceptual understandings.</p> <p><i>Be patient with yourself when you are learning!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homework <u>will be assigned most days</u> and <u>will be checked for completion at the beginning of class when it is due.</u> ● After the class goes over an assignment, it will be collected for credit. ● Homework assignments are worth up to 5 points, depending on level of completion of the assignment. ● Late homework will be accepted, unless otherwise specified when the assignment is given, and <i>as long as it is done outside of class time.</i> ● No points are earned if the homework is never turned in for credit. ● Some homework may be project based. <p>Course grades will include marking period grades and the semester exam, using the percentages listed in the Student Handbook.</p> |
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| <p>CONTACT INFORMATION:</p> | |
| <p>Teacher:</p> | <p>Teresa Colucci</p> |
| <p>Email Address:</p> | <p>tcolucci@sacschools.org (preferred method of contact)</p> |
| <p>Phone Number:</p> | <p>(989)399-2435</p> |