

## Course Description:

Our focus in 8th grade at Cedar Bluff Middle School is to help each student to reach their full potential and prepare for the transition to high school. Honors Algebra 1 is a rigorous course designed to fully prepare students to take Honors Geometry their freshman year in high school. This class is offered to those students who have demonstrated solid proficiency skills in prior mathematics coursework. Upon successful completion of the End of Course test at the end of the year, students will earn one elective high school credit for Algebra I.

Knox County Schools fully implements the Tennessee State Standards (TNReady). Multiple paths of instruction will be used in the classroom, including short answer, multiple choice, multiple answer, and constructed response tasks. Specific objectives and additional information about the new standards may be found at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/math/>

## Honors Algebra 1 Topics and General Pacing Guideline

- Module 1 - Solving Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Module 2 - Relationships and Functions
- Module 3 - Linear Functions
- Module 4 - Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Module 5 - Exponential Expressions and Functions
- MIDTERM EXAM - \*\*dateTBA
- Module 6 - Polynomial Expressions
- Module 7 - Quadratic Functions
- Module 8 - Quadratic Equations
- Module 9 - Comparing and Using Functions
- Module 10 - Statistics
- TNReady Testing Window \*\*TBA

**Textbook:** Carnegie Learning Algebra I

### Materials Needed:

- spiral notebooks (70 or 100 pgs., college ruled preferred, replaced as required)
- graph paper (for homework)
- #2 pencils/erasers
- TI 84 Plus Graphing Calculator. (This calculator is an expensive investment, but will be used throughout high school and college). If your family already has a TI-83, this calculator is more than sufficient for the needs of this class.
- One pack of AAA batteries (for in class supplies). Graphing calculators drain battery life quickly. Your student will need a backup supply at home.
- EXPO marker and rag/eraser for work on white boards

## Knox County Grade Scales:

A	93-100	Exceeds Expectations
B	85-92	Meeting Expectations
C	75-84	Approaching Expectations
D	70-74	Attempting Expectations
F	69 - 0	Insufficient student Evidence

## Class Progress and Monitoring:

### FIRST SEMESTER:

50% of mean of grades from Module Tests/Quizzes (summative assessments)

40% of mean grades from homework (formative assessments)

10% from Mid-Term Score

### SECOND SEMESTER:

60% of grade from Module Tests

40% of grade from quizzes/homework

The end of course test will comprise 25% of the student grade for the entire year. This will not be reflected in Parent Portal until after the scores are received from the TN Department of Education at the end of the school year. The 1st semester report card grade and the grades earned up until the are recalculated by KCS to reflect 75% of the grade. The second semester report card grade will be the grade earned for the entire year and is the one reported on high school transcripts.

## Make-up Work:

This is the responsibility of the student. Students should check in with their teacher upon returning to school for any handouts or daily assignments. If they know they will be out ahead of time, students may always ask a friend to pick up their work for them. Students have three days from the date they return to submit work which was due during their absences. **Homework is a critical component to your student's success in Honors Algebra I. Homework is purposeful practice of the skill we worked on in class that day. Homework will be graded and is factored into the course grade.**

Tests and quizzes should be made up outside of regular classroom time. If the student needs to make something up before or after regular school hours, this can be arranged between the teacher and the student on a case-by-case basis. They may also utilize structured physical activity time during school.

Attendance is critical to success in Pre-Algebra. Please encourage your child to be in class every day. Most material taught is through exploration, discovery, and discussion with peers, not just completion of a worksheet or page out of a book. The curriculum is very full and challenging. When they are absent, they miss more than can be replaced by reading a chapter. Students are encouraged to team up with another class member as a buddy to facilitate getting missed notes, handouts, and assignments when absent.

## **Quiz/Homework corrections:**

Students will be allowed to make corrections/redo an assignment after being retaught the material. Each module in Algebra I builds on previous material and our goal is for students to feel confident moving forward and given every opportunity to learn from their mistakes in order to improve their understanding of the content.

## **Late work:**

Assignments are given to strengthen the skills and objectives learned in class and will best benefit your student's learning when completed on time. Late work must be completed outside of classroom time. The grade for late work will not be eligible for full credit. To promote daily completion of homework, and to facilitate better home/school communication, parent calls may occur if work is not being completed or submitted late. Frequent late work will result in request for parent conference.

## **Progress Reports & Grades:**

Progress reports will be emailed every 4 ½ weeks. Report cards will be emailed at the end of the first semester and at the end of the year. You may request a printed copy from your student's classroom teacher if desired. Please be on the lookout for these reports. Verify your email in Aspen.

## **Parent portal:**

Parents and students are encouraged to use the Parent Portal to check grade status. Grades are updated as they are collected and assessed, usually with an average of one or two per week. Please contact the school with any log in difficulties.

## **Classroom Expectations:**

Adherence to these three simple rules is expected:

- \*Respect yourself
- \*Respect others
- \*Respect property and materials

Following these three basic rules will allow for a positive and productive learning environment for everyone.

**Communication:** I am in my classroom each day by 8:00 A.M. Parents and students may reach me through email: [heather.tally@knoxschools.org](mailto:heather.tally@knoxschools.org). Email is the most efficient method of communication. Phone messages may be left in the office at 539-7890. I will make every effort to return messages within 48 hours.

Please return this page as acknowledgement that student and parent/guardian have reviewed the syllabus and are aware of class expectations.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

As your child's teacher, I am committed to helping your child achieve growth in mathematics knowledge and comprehension. I need parents and guardians to partner with me in that effort. Please list for me the best way to communicate your student's successes and concerns so together we can help your child have a year which will better prepare for the future.

Student name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you (email, text, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Also, to better serve your student, please tell me anything you believe will enable me to help your child succeed in class. Use the back in needed.

Thank you for your responses.

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