

# Transitional Algebra/Algebra I Syllabus

## Solon High School

### **Teacher's Contact Information:**

Mrs. Erika Mowrey

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### **Course Description:**

Transitional Algebra/Algebra I is a double block class; you will be in the classroom for two periods daily. Due to the way this class is organized, it is two semester courses and you have the opportunity to earn two math credits.

This class will have an active environment with an emphasis on using pre-algebra and algebra skills to problem solve. It is expected that you come to class each day ready to be an active participant in the learning process. A large amount of time will be spent working collaboratively with your classmates to make mathematical discoveries. The time spent in these collaborative groups is designed for you to be actively engaged with higher level thinking skills and take responsibility for your own learning. You will take what you have discovered in your groups and apply this knowledge for individual practice and assessment. This is a great class with many opportunities for growth and learning! We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities and enjoy the class!

### **Required Materials:**

1. Box of pencils with erasers
2. Graphing Calculator: TI-83 or TI-84
3. Graph paper
4. 3 ring binder (2 inch)
5. Tab dividers for binder
6. 1 box of Kleenex
7. **Choose:** Pack of dry erase markers **OR** AAA batteries
8. 1 bag of individually wrapped candy of your choice

### **Attendance**

Due to the double class period and the structure of the class, it is imperative that you are in both class periods everyday! You have the number of days absent to make up the work you missed and it is your responsibility to see the teacher for assignments.

### **Grading:**

A: 100 – 90    B: 89 – 80    C: 79 – 70    D: 69 – 60    F: 59 & below

Your grade is determined by predetermined weighed scale of three categories.

### **Category 1 (60%): Individual Assessments (individual tests & quizzes)**

Each individual test will be composed of approximately 40% new material and 60% old material. If you are absent from a test or a quiz you are expected to make it up according to school policy in the testing center between 7am and 4pm unless previous arrangements have already been made.

## **Category 2 (20%): Team Tests (team tests & quizzes, team presentations, etc.)**

Team Tests are normally one week prior to the Individual Chapter Common Assessment. If you are absent on team test day, you will take the test ALONE according to school policy in the testing center between 7am and 4pm unless previous arrangements have already been made.

## **Category 3 (20%): Coursework (class preparation, participation, homework, binder checks, etc.)**

### **Extra Help**

Please seek extra help as soon as you are experiencing difficulty.

- I am available most days before school (7:15AM – 7:45AM).
- Math teachers are available in the Math Lab (located in the LMC) during study halls.
- National Honor Society tutors are available to serve as peer tutors.
- [homework.cpm.org](http://homework.cpm.org) is a site that has solutions and hints to many of the homework problems. Use it as a learning tool.
  1. Go to [homework.cpm.org](http://homework.cpm.org)
  2. Scroll through the textbooks in the "Core Connections" section & select the Algebra Core Connections text (green and blue).
  3. Choose the appropriate chapter.
  4. Choose the appropriate problem number.
- See us or your guidance counselor for other tutoring references.

### **Classroom Expectations**

1. Be ready to begin class when the bell rings and expect to work hard.
2. School policies will be enforced (dress code, tardiness etc).
3. Cell phones are not permitted to be used in the educational setting unless it is part of the teacher directed curriculum. Having your phone off and in your bag or in the phone caddy is the best way not to be tempted. Any unauthorized use of the cell phone (even to check the time) will result in your phone taking a trip to the office.
4. Hall passes will NOT be given except for an emergency situation.
5. Do your own work: cheating is never honest. Be aware that sharing information about a test or quiz is a form of cheating.
6. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the assignments that you missed. They will be posted on the board and on the Family Information System.
7. Remain in your seat until the bell rings. Congregating at the door near the end of class is not allowed.
8. Respect yourself, your classmates & your teachers every day.

### **Team Work Rules**

1. Keep conversations centered on math.
2. Talk only to your team, no stranger danger.
3. When you are stuck, ask everyone in your group before asking the teacher.
4. Work together; don't leave anyone behind or work ahead.
5. Help teammates by asking questions and giving hints, not answers.
6. Explain & justify your answers completely.
7. Clear desks before you begin working.

### **Consequences**

Students who choose not to abide by the class expectations will receive a teacher detention. Detentions must be served either in the morning or after school. Further problems may result in a phone call to your parent/guardian, additional detentions, and/or an administrative referral.