

Algebra II B

Fall 2011 / Spring 2012

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Course Description

Algebra II is a continuation and development of the skills and principles covered in Algebra I, but with an emphasis on preparation for Physics/Trigonometry and Calculus. Topics include systems of linear equations, operations with vectors, quadratic equations, graphing quadratics, etc.

Course Objectives

- To evaluate, analyze, and solve mathematical situations using algebraic properties
- To develop higher level reasoning skills in all areas of life through the mastery of these mathematical processes
- To encourage sound organizational skills through neat work and a thorough step-by-step completion of equations and other problems
- To introduce the foundational stages of physics, trigonometry, and calculus in preparation for later courses as well as various national standardized tests

Course Requirements

- Students will be given a syllabus and expected to complete all homework assignments in a timely fashion. Homework folders will be turned in once every two weeks. While these folders are only required every two weeks, it is in the students' best interest to complete their assignments on a nightly basis to avoid falling behind.
- Students will be expected to not only complete their assigned homework problems, but also pre-read for the next lesson being covered in class. Their ability to then dialogue with their classmates concerning the lesson will largely dictate their participation grade for the day. A student must be capable and willing to join in the discussion (Socratic Method).
- Tests will be given every two weeks. because of the high volume of grades, tests will make up the majority of the student's grade. Tests are only revisable if the original grade is 80% or more and are due one week after they are returned. Tests with grades below 70% will be retaken. Retakes will not replace the original test grade. A student may not move on until they have shown mastery (70% or higher) on their retake.
- Class will open with discussion over new material and then time will be allotted for working on the assignments. Students are encouraged to work together insofar as they maintain a respectful study environment.
- Calculators may be used sparingly, but not for simple operations. Graphing calculators are not needed. Students may also expect occasional "mental math" exercises in class.
- No ink pens should be used during this class, only pencils and erasers. Red pens or pencils may be used for revising work. Students must produce organized work with neat handwriting.
- **The tutor reserves the right to return homework as an "incomplete" for illegible and/or sloppy handwriting.**