Algebra 1 Newsletter

February 2015

Happy spring semester parents and students! Each month you all will receive a newsletter via e-mail updating you on the happenings in Algebra 1. I hope this gives you a better idea of the changes and successes happening in our math class!

-Ms. Lozada

PBA and Fall Semester Recap

Congratulations to all students! All the studying you put in and tutoring hours you attended helped you succeed in achieving the PBA and course grades you wanted! There is a 91% pass rate for the PBA with most students earning a B or above! AND 97% of our class passed the course with, again, most students earning a B or above! Great work and continue working hard during the spring semester!

Spring Semester Adjustments

To emphasize the importance of participating in your learning in class each and every day, the grading percentages will change to:

15% Participation (including attendance and classwork) (previously 5%)
15% Quizzes (previously 20%)
30% Tests (previously 35%)

All other percentages will remain as follows:
20% Semester Final
10% Homework
10% Projects

How to Participate in class:

Participation will now be 15% of your course grade. To earn participation points, make sure you:

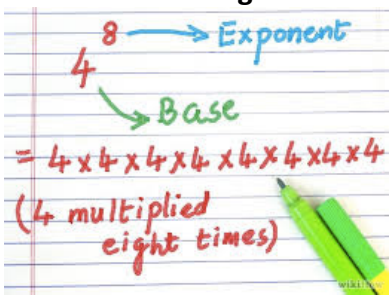
Get to class on time: You will earn 1 point per each class you get to on time. You will earn ½ point per class you arrive late too. You will earn 0 points per class you have an unexcused absence. You will earn no points per class you have an excused absence (no points will not harm or improve your grade). Lateness 1st period has become a negative distraction so make sure you get to class by 8am sharp A band!

Work cooperatively with your group: Your cooperation, set-up, and mathematical talk will be evaluated using a checklist to hold everyone accountable for not only completing the classwork, but keeping their conversations focused on the task at hand. Practice in class is your opportunity to solve problems and extend your understanding of the concept you just learned *before* you leave class and try the homework. This is your time to ask questions! Each group will have a project manager who collects your team folder at the beginning of class and keeps the

group on task. Organized and productive project managers will earn extra participation points.

Complete the classwork and exit ticket: Each class, you will be given about 5-10 problems to solve in your notebook on the concept you just learned. You will work cooperatively with your group to complete the classwork while making sure everyone understands what they are doing. Once you all have completed the classwork, you will each receive a classwork checklist to complete before you move on to the exit ticket. The classwork checklist will provide you with the solutions to each problem and you will correct any problems that you have missed. Once your whole group has corrected their problems, you will receive the exit ticket. The exit ticket will evaluate your independent understanding of the day's lesson. You alone will solve 2-3 problems on what you just learned and practiced, as well as write about the big idea/take away from the day's lesson. You will turn in the exit ticket to your team folders at the conclusion of class for a grade.

What are we learning in February?



Unit 7: Exponents

You will delve deeper into the definition of exponent and use that knowledge to understand the Exponent Laws. After you build your procedural fluency with exponents, you will apply that knowledge to exponential functions. Historically, this unit has been one of the more challenging units you will study so take detailed notes, complete your homework with care, and ask questions!

Dates to mark on your calendar:

2/12: Exponents Quiz 1 (Zero/Negative Exponents, Multiplication Properties of Exponents)
2/16-2/20: February Break
2/26: Exponents Quiz 2 (Division Properties of Exponents, Rational Exponents, Exponential Functions)
3/3: Unit 7 Performance Task due
3/4: Unit 7 Exponents and Exponential Functions Test