

# ALGEBRA 1

## COURSE SYLLABUS 2019-2020

INSTRUCTORS: MR. RIZZI AND MRS. NEWALKAR

LOCATION: A368

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CLASS WEBSITE: [MRRIZZI.COM](http://MRRIZZI.COM)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of topics in algebra 1 including one- and two-variable equations, exponential and quadratic functions, and radical and rational functions. The main focus of the first semester of algebra 1 is the idea of solving equations. Students will be given projects and practice problems geared to stretch their understanding of the material and how math relates to everyday life.

### TEXT:

Algebra 1 (Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff)

### OTHER MATERIALS:

Notebook, pencil, and calculator. It is advised that you keep your notes and homework organized in a binder or notebook. You may either buy a scientific calculator (TI-30) or a graphing calculator for this course.

Though a graphing calculator is not at all required, you may find it advantageous to purchase one if you do not yet own one. You will be able to use this calculator in your future math classes and on standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT. If you do not have a calculator, one *may* be provided for you during tests (based on availability). **Recommended graphing calculator models to buy: TI-83, TI-84, or TI-Nspire.**

### TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

No cell phones, iPods, or other electronic equipment **during lectures or group activities**. If I see them, I will take them for the remainder of the hour. There will be times in class where we will make use of these devices, such as survey response question. Otherwise, they are not to be seen. I will let you know when it is appropriate to use such devices.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### I. LECTURE

1. To develop the concepts and language of math.
2. To make students aware of how math is related to their everyday lives and their world.
3. To develop critical thinking.

### II. SMALL GROUP WORK

1. To strengthen the concepts and ideas introduced in class.
2. To introduce students to collaborative learning.
3. To develop critical thinking.

### III. PROJECTS AND PRACTICE (HOMEWORK)

1. Occasional projects will be assigned in order to strengthen the understanding of the material.
2. Practice will be given on a daily basis in order to help facilitate your learning experience.
3. Most practice and projects will be graded based on a combination of completion and correctness.

## GRADING SYSTEM:

We will be using a standards-based method for grades this year. This means that a student's grade is based solely on her achievement of the pre-determined standards for the course. A student's final grade will be an average of their achievement of their standards, along with chapter assessments. Grades are calculated in the following manner:

<b>Achievement of Standards</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Unit Tests</b>	<b>30%</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ABOUT STANDARDS-BASED GRADING:

Standards-based grading is a research-based method of measuring students' mastery of specific standards, or skills, in the classroom. Rather than just being a "different method of grading," standards-based grading allows students to take ownership of their own learning by assessing their own proficiency on standards and enabling them to demonstrate proficiency repeatedly throughout the year. Students will have multiple opportunities to "re-assess" any topic in which they are not deemed proficient.

Standards-based grading will help you, as a parent, to identify specific areas in which your child is successful, as well as areas in which your child needs some extra practice. It is our intention to be as transparent as possible with the standards in order to help students achieve the greatest success.

For more information, please see my website: <http://mrrizzi.com/>

## PRACTICE (HOMEWORK):

Students should complete assignments carefully. Practice is preferred in pencil as mistakes are easily corrected in pencil. **It is a student's responsibility to make up absent work.** All assignments are posted on my website ahead of time. Homework will not be collected, but will be checked for completion. The purpose of homework is to reinforce and expand understanding of concepts studied; it is never assigned as busy work or filler. **Homework will not count toward a student's final grade.**

## FORMS OF ASSESSMENT:

- **In-Class Projects:** Completed in many chapters to enhance learning and help students draw connections.
- **Checkpoints:** Frequent small checks based on pre-determined to see if students are keeping up.
- **Chapter Tests:** Students absent on test day should expect to take their test on the following day.

## COURSE POLICIES:

- **Scholastic Dishonesty:** Acts prohibited by Stoney Creek for which discipline may be administered include, but are not limited to, cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework.
- **Student Discipline:** I believe that you know how to behave at this point in your lives. I only ask that you respect each other and behave in a manner that allows all of us to use our time in a productive manner.
- Success may come in the form of A's, B's, C's, or D's. Turning in all work does not guarantee an "A". Remember: consistent hard work should help ensure your educational success. One thing that I highly advise is to participate in class and ask good questions! All standards on quizzes have been covered in class.

## IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Students who are struggling in class will be given preferential seating.
- All projects and multi-day assignments will be chunked into manageable pieces.
- A copy of class notes will be available to students online.
- Study guide answers will be provided in class after students have made an attempt. Study guide answers will be posted online at least 1 day before the test.
- All unit assignments will be eligible for full credit if turned in prior to the unit assessment/test date.
- Academic Center drop-in support will be available to all students upon request. Students will be expected to be in the classroom for all instruction and during in-class work time, if the student cannot get the help needed, they will be allowed to use the AC.
- Minimally, a 4-function calculator will be allowed on all assessments that requires math calculation.
- Check Points and tests are untimed in my classroom. Students are welcome to finish assessments in the Academic Center during lunch or before school.

At Stoney Creek High School, we are committed to giving our students a solid foundation of mathematics in algebra 1; therefore, we will evaluate student progress quarterly. **Any student demonstrating less than a 65% will be considered for a math intervention.**