July 25th, 2023

Algebra 2
Course Information

I. General

A. **Teacher:** Jim Baumgaertel - 360-620-9901, jimbaum@procinwarn.com

B. **Textbook:** Saxon's *Algebra 2, An Incremental Development, 3rd edition*

C. **Homework Blog**: https://writinghome.org/homework-assignments-2/algebra-ii/

D. **Course Times and Dates:**

1. Tuesday, September 5th to Tuesday, November 21st and Tuesday, January 9th to Tuesday, April 23rd
2. **Tuesdays** – 1:00 to 3:00 pm
3. This course will proceed at half-speed, in that two weeks will be devoted to every four lessons instead of one week. A test will be given every other week. A scientific calculator is required (not a graphing calculator).
4. First homework due: 9/12. First test: 9/26.
5. Students should be in their seats at least five minutes prior to class. Please let me know as soon as possible if your student will be missing a class session.

E. Academic Success

1. Pursue understanding.
2. Follow directions.
3. Learn from your mistakes.

F. Course Grade

1. Tests will count for 90%. Homework will count as 10% of their grade.

2. Grade reports will be emailed to the parents at least every other Friday.

3. Homework will be spot checked and not graded in detail. Tests will be graded in detail by Mr. B.

4. Homework is the primary means for students to develop the understanding necessary to pass the tests. It is up to the student to benefit from the homework. The grade for homework is mainly for following directions and does not measure understanding. The tests are

the measure of understanding. Studying graded tests is essential for success in this course.

II. Textbook use

A. The textbook is the primary tool for learning algebra. The student must read and **study** each of four lessons every week. Carefully think through each example problem. Take notes. Keep a summary sheet of important formulas and facts for future review. Study the lessons as you're doing the homework problems.

B. The student should spend about **one hour a day** on this course.

III. Homework

A. The parents supervise homework.

B. The **most important** part of this course is that the student must do all the homework every week. It should be stapled and ready to be turned in Tuesdays at the beginning of class. They should turn in four problem sets, one for each of the four assigned lessons of the textbook. The odd numbered problems are due one week and even numbered problems are due the next week.

C. The parent is responsible for supervising the homework and ensuring that it is done properly and on time. The parent does not need to grade each question. Rather, you should **spot check** that all the required problems of each of four lessons are completed according to the instructions in this document.

D. The student must keep up with the homework even if absent due to sickness, vacation, or other reason. **It is the student's responsibility to make up work that they missed.**

E. Please help your student to not get behind in turning in homework.

F. Please see the applicable homework page on writinghome.org or call or email me if there are any questions. https://writinghome.org/homework-assignments-2/algebra-ii/

G. The student should write the problems on standard-sized, lined paper (see below) and show his/her work. Put name and date at the top. Be legible. For each problem, re-write the problem as it is in the textbook. For problems with a lot of text, the problem may be summarized. Write out the solving of the problem. **Show your work**. Show your algebra until ready to use the calculator. A scientific calculator should be used for the final calculations. Box the answer. Then, check the answer in the back of the textbook for odd numbered problems.

If you got a wrong answer, redo the problem to the side or on another sheet of paper.

H. The student should not leave any problem blank. For each problem, the lesson that applies is in parenthesis beneath the problem number in the textbook. If they do not know how to do the problem they should read the lesson again and study the examples. Then they should ask a parent. And if necessary, they should call or email me.

IV. Tests

A. **Tuesdays** will normally be test day (every other week). If a test is missed due to sickness or other reason, it will not need to be made up.

B. The student should never be shown the test or have access to a test solutions manual before taking the test or during the test.

C. The student should write the test problems on standard-sized, lined paper (see below). The student's name should be written at the top of the test sheet. The test number should be written at the top, e.g., "Test 1". Write the number of each test question. **Re-write each question** (Story problems may be summarized). Solve the problem, including following Mr. B's directions. **Show your work**. **Box the answer**. When Mr. B grades the test he is more interested in the work shown than in the boxed answer.

D. Proctoring tests

1. The tests will be proctored to ensure the integrity of testing and ensuring that there is no cheating. A scientific calculator should be used.

2. The student will be given at least one hour to complete the test.

E. Keep all graded tests. The student should **study** past graded tests weekly. The student should carefully read each comment Mr. B writes on a graded test. If there are questions, contact Mr. B. The graded tests are essential tools to learning algebra in this course. **Do not make the same mistake twice!** Learn from your mistakes. **Follow directions.**

V. Lectures

A. Mr B will lecture on the next four lessons of the textbook every other Tuesday.

B. The student should have with them the textbook, a scientific calculator, pencil or pen, and paper to be used for taking notes and doing problems.

VI. Supplies for this course

A. The textbook

B. Scientific Calculator – not a graphing calculator, not a standard calculator

1. A standard calculator only does the four basic arithmetic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

2. A scientific calculator (required for this course) does the arithmetic operations but also does scientific notation and the trigonometric functions (sine, cosine, tangent).

C. A pencil or pen (black or blue ink)

D. Paper: Standard-size loose leaf white college-ruled lined paper

1. Size: either 8.5 by 11 inch or 8 by 10.5 inch. Please not smaller.
2. Homework and tests should be turned in on this type of paper.
3. Please, no spiral notebook paper, or graph paper, or other colors of paper than white.
4. Spiral notebooks may be used for taking notes, but not required.

VII. Success depends on students, parents, and teacher

A. Most students are capable of getting A's (90% or above) or B's (80-89%) if they read the text, listen in class, do the homework and study hard.

VIII. Requirements to remain in the course: Maintain at least a 60% average on tests and turn in all assigned homework on time.

IX. Reasons to be dismissed from the course:

A. Fail three tests in a row (59% or below).
B. Average 59% or below for the tests at any time (after the first three tests).
C. Being behind in turning in homework (not caught up) for three weeks in a row.
D. Cheating.

X. Recommendation for parents:

A. Remember that Writing Home is a tool for you to home school your student.
B. Review each graded test.
C. Review each homework assignment prior to your student turning it in, to verify its completeness.
D. Review each graded homework assignment.
E. Monitor the grade reports emailed to you about every two weeks.

XI. Please help your student learn by not cheating. Students should not simply copy their homework from a solutions manual. Students should not be allowed to see a test or test solutions before they take a test. Students may be dismissed for cheating.