

PreAlgebra Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Schaub

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/loyolacatholicschool.org/schaub>

Email: sschaub@loyolacatholicschool.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to ready the student for Algebra. Topics include the real number system; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing real numbers; common factors and multiples, area, volume, word problems, ratios and proportions, and writing and solving equations.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To lead each student to an understanding of the most important concepts of PreAlgebra giving a firm foundation for the further study of mathematics.
2. Each student must willingly invest the time and effort needed to understand the material and do the assigned exercises for skill development. Mathematics is not a course one can learn by simply observing the teacher.
3. To respect the right of each person to listen, to practice, and to learn without distraction.
4. To instill personal responsibility for ones own conduct and performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course, I will expect that the learner can:

- Feel comfortable adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing real numbers.
- Utilize your mathematics skills to learn Prealgebra concepts and techniques.
- Use graphing technology as a tool to explore and gain further understanding in Prealgebra.
- Understand the nature of problem solving.
- Prepare for other courses in mathematics.

DAILY REQUIREMENTS:

Each student is expected to bring the following items to class every day:

1. Textbook: **Algebra** ½ , Saxon Publishers, 2004.
2. Three-ring binder.
3. Laptop computer.
4. Pencil with eraser.
5. Scientific calculator.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE UP WORK:

Absent students are responsible for all work covered during their absence. Notes are posted on the class website. Students are expected to contact a classmate to complete the notes. Students absent for 1 or 2 days have 1 day to make up the work. Students absent for more than 2 days have 2 days extra. If it is a **school absence**, like a field trip, music lesson, sports excuse, or suspension, hand in homework on time—**no extension** for missed day(s).

TECHNOLOGY:

Students will use the laptop computer as a tool to explore Prealgebra concepts using the Geometer's Sketchpad software and several internet tools. Students will be doing many homework assignments and several tests and quizzes using the MathXL for School (<http://www.mathxlforschool.com>) internet program. They will also use the following website: <http://loyolamath.pbworks.com> for the weekly assignment schedule and for vocabulary notes, reviews or other class materials.

QUARTER GRADING:

Each quarter grade is a composite of Daily Homework Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, and Responsibility.

Daily Homework: 15% of the Quarter Grade.

- 2 points each.
- Homework will be assigned daily and discussed and turned in the following day.
- NO credit is given for late or incomplete work (except excused absences).

Quizzes: 25% of the Quarter Grade.

- Usually given about halfway through a unit of work.

Tests: 50% of the Quarter Grade.

- There is a test at the completion of each unit.
- Everyone has the opportunity to retest; but only after completing some corrective work.

Responsibility: 10% of the Quarter Grade.

- This category deals with completing required work on time.
- The points in this category is made up of completing a review before the unit test, taking the test on time, doing corrective work if needed, and taking a retest on time if needed.

SEMESTER GRADING:

Semester grades are determined using the following formula:

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ quarter grade} \times 40\% + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ quarter grade} \times 40\% + \text{Final exam grade} \times 20\%.$$

GRADE SCALE:

The grading scale is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage on Coursework	Percentage of Homework that must be handed in
A	94-100	100
A-	90-93	
B+	88-89	90
B	82-87	
B-	80-81	
C+	78-79	

C	72-77	80
C-	70-71	
D+	68-69	70
D	62-67	
D-	60-61	
F	0-59	---

EXTRA HELP:

In addition to two Guided Study periods each week, I am available for individual help at the following times: 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 2:45-3:30 p.m. Occasionally, I will have staff meetings during these times.

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Thank you for taking an interest in your child's learning by reviewing this letter yourself and with your child. I look forward to sharing this year with your child and challenging him/her to excel. I am attaching an article titled "Finding the Glory in the Struggle: Helping our Students Thrive when Math Gets Tough." The key point of the article is that the best way to help is to offer no help, only encouragement and support. You can reach me by email: sschaub@loyolacatholicschool.org or by phone: 388-2997 ext. 235. To ensure good communication, it would be very helpful if you would provide me with your email address.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sue Schaub

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Parent/Guardian email _____