



Wellesley Middle School

Algebra 1

Welcome to Algebra 1! I would like to start the year off by giving you an overview of the course and hope this helps you to find success in our class this year. We will be exploring the CMP2 books you have already used in grades 6 and 7. A few of the books we will use are Thinking With Mathematical Models (Linear & Inverse Variation), Growing-Growing-Growing (Exponential Relationships), Frogs-Fleas and Painted Cubes (Quadratic Relationships), Say It With Symbols (Making Sense of Symbols), The Shapes of Algebra (Linear Systems and Inequalities), and Looking for Pythagoras (The Pythagorean Theorem).

The Grading System:

Your grade for each quarter will be determined on a percentage basis. There will be four categories (these will be described in more detail) to think about:

Tests & Quizzes	65%
Homework	20%
Communication	10%
<u>Self-evaluation</u>	<u>5%</u>
Overall Quarter Grade	100%

The overall grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

99% - 100%	=	A+
92% - 98%	=	A
90% - 91%	=	A-
88% - 89%	=	B+
82% - 87%	=	B
80% - 81%	=	B-
78% - 79%	=	C+
72% - 77%	=	C
70% - 71%	=	C-
68% - 69%	=	D+
62% - 67%	=	D
60% - 61%	=	D-
59% & below	=	F

Overall Course Grade = QTR. 1 (15%) + QTR. 2 (20%) + QTR. 3 (25%) + QTR. 4 (25%) + Midterm (5%) + Final Exam (10%)

Tests/Quizzes (1 every 2-3 weeks)

These problems are used to determine knowledge and communication of concepts covered in class and on homework. These assessments will cover mostly material explored over the past few weeks, but also may include material from any topics we look at in class. These can be open response, multiple choice, multiple select or any combination of these.

Skills, Review, HW Checks or Notebook Quiz (1 each month)

The Skills Quiz consists of ten basic skills questions and will be worth 50 points. The Review Quiz will cover any material learned from the start of the year. The HW Check will be a problem from the previous assignments and worth 20 points. The Notebook Test will require that you locate problems completed over the quarter in your notes and usually be held the final week of each quarter.

Daily Homework

Homework will usually be given Monday through Thursday. I will walk around the room at the beginning of the period and check each person's homework for effort. You will be given credit based on the below rubric. Most assignments should take between 20 - 30 minutes. If you spend 30 minutes on any homework assignment and have not completed it, then you may have a parent or guardian sign to that under the last of your completed work and receive full credit. Please have them sign in cursive "*(Your name)* spent 30 minutes on this HW" after the last completed problem.

Daily Homework (randomly checked in class)

These checks are used to determine effort. Every student can work hard. Each daily check will use the following 3-point scale:

- 3 = looks like the student spent 30 quality minutes on the assignment
- 2 = looks like the student spent 20 quality minutes on the assignment
- 1 = looks like the student spent 10 quality minutes on the assignment
- 0 = no work product to show effort

Communication:

I will determine this grade. It will be based on my judgment of how hard you have worked and how well you have learned the material this quarter.

Self-evaluation:

You will determine this grade. It will be based on your judgment of how hard you have worked and how well you have learned the material this quarter.

Notebooks

A spiral-graphing notebook will be kept throughout the year. You are to begin each day of notes with the date and then copy and solve problems from the board or book. If there are problems that are solved on the board as a class, they need to be in your notebook. If you are unsure about putting something in your notes, please ask me. About once each month, I will ask that you take out a specific date of notes from the current quarter and locate a problem from your notes for a grade (If you were absent that day, you should have copied notes from a classmate upon your return). I will be looking for the following: date, any "Do Now" problems, completeness, organization, and neatness. We will also be discussing this topic in more detail throughout the year.

Attendance

If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to make up any missed homework and copy class notes from a classmate for the days you have missed. I will give one extra day for each absence to make up the work; so if you were absent on a Monday and Tuesday, then you will have Wednesday and Thursday to complete missed work and show it to me on Friday.

Classroom Discipline

There are three rules you will need to think about in this class. They are the following: 1.) Do your best 2.) Treat others fairly 3.) Do what is right. These three rules will be our guide to what is acceptable classroom behavior.

Materials

- 1.) Spiral bound graph paper notebook
- 2.) Calculator (TI - 30X)
- 3.) Pencils

Math can sometimes be challenging. The thing to remember is to keep trying and have an open mind. Stay focused on what information the problem gives and what it is the problem wants you to solve. Read the problem three times and try it again. I know you will do well if you just give your best. Hard work equals talent. Remember that **I AM ROOTING FOR YOU!**

Sincerely,
Michael Patrick Mazzeo
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Press On

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence,
Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent.
Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.
Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.
Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

DON'T EVER GIVE UP



Breathing Exercise (to help you relax)

X = seconds to inhale deep into your belly
4X = seconds to hold breathe
2X = seconds to exhale slowly
(Start with X = 4 and work your way up)