

INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA

TEXT

Algebra I Structure and Method

PREREQUISITES

A basic understanding of arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and pre-algebra skills.

OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to follow the structure and content of the Algebra I curriculum, but focuses on fundamental algebraic concepts. Specific objectives include:

- Understanding and strengthening number sense
- Working with equations and inequalities
- Develop the ability to factor
- Understanding functional relationships and graphing
- Prepare students for Algebra I

CONTENT

- Variables and equations
- Real numbers
- Solving equations
- Polynomials
- Factoring polynomials
- Ratios and proportions
- Functions
- Linear equations and systems of linear equations
- Inequalities
- Rational and irrational numbers

SKILLS

- Develop effective organizational systems
- Develop problem solving ability
- Keeping current with assignments
- Develop the ability to attempt difficult material
- Develop effective and efficient study habits
- Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills

METHODS

General techniques will involve lecture/note-taking and problem solving. A portion of each class period is set aside for individual instruction with formal peer tutoring.

HOMEWORK

Homework consists of completion of classroom originated work and studying for quizzes and chapter tests.

GRADING/CREDITS

Grades are determined from daily assignments (50%) and test and quiz scores (50%). Each chapter in the course is worth one credit.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

As much individual instruction as possible will be given to students, both in and outside of the classroom to meet student needs. Contractual arrangements with teacher are negotiable and always include demonstration of individual mastery of material.

ABSENCES/TARDIES

Mastering the concepts of Algebra I is a cumulative endeavor; therefore attendance is absolutely crucial to success in the course. Students are responsible for all assignments, quizzes or tests including those given when they are absent or tardy.