Algebra I
COURSE SYLLABUS 2015-2016
Ms. Prendergast

Course Objectives

This class is a foundational course in the iSchool mathematics curriculum. It is intended for any student who has not yet passed the Algebra I Regents Exam with an70 or above. It covers a variety of algebra topics and prepares students for the Algebra I Regents Exam in June 2016 and to continue onto Geometry. Algebra I is a year-long course, and earns students two mathematics credits. This is a blended learning course; successful completion of the course requires at least 5 hours of online activities each quarter, as described below.

The topics covered in this Algebra course are the foundation to upper mathematics studied in high school and college. Algebra is a very large part of the math that is tested on the PSAT and SAT as well as the math that can be used in science classes and in everyday life. Algebra is often nicknamed 'The gateway to success' referring to success in high school and beyond. Every student can be successful in this class with the right amount of work and effort. Be prepared to be challenged, work hard, and have a little fun with math along the way.

Mastery Requirements

Each quarter between 3 and 5 units will be covered. Each unit will contain two to six topics and each topic will cover approximately 3 learning targets.   Students are expected to learn and master at least 65% of the topics throughout each quarter.   In order to demonstrate mastery students can earn **MASTERY POINTS** on quizzes, tests, exams and projects. ***Mastery points are the most important part of this Algebra class,*** and it is necessary that every child and parent be aware of a student's mastery points in order to be successful and pass the course. Ms. P. will keep track of all of the mastery points in a spreadsheet that can be found on the mastery page of the class website. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their mastery!

If a student does not earn a mastery point they have the opportunity to make it up by retaking the assessment:

- If a student misses a mastery point on a mini quiz they should review the skill on their own, or come to office hours to review with Ms. P. When they are ready they should attend office hours or make an appointment during lunch to re-take the mini quiz.

- If a student misses a mastery point on a test they first should look through their test and read any comments that Ms. P made while grading it. Students should then complete the *Test Corrections Assignment* on the class website. After they turn in their corrections to Ms. P and/or discuss questions they still have, they can set up a time to retake the appropriate sections of the test during office hours or during a lunch appointment.

Because students can retake assessments until they truly master the material, there is no reason for any student to have less than 65% of the mastery points per quarter!

Students must earn at least 65% of the mastery points possible each quarter to pass the quarter and 65% of the total points throughout the year to pass the course.

Expectations for Students:

- **Beginning of Class/ Dismissal:** Enter only when the door is open and a teacher is present; you are dismissed only when the teacher says you are, so do not pack up or leave without being told to do so. Before you leave you should return all materials, push your chair in and put your pen in the center of your desk.
- **Beginning of class:** The Get Ready will only be 3-5 minutes and will be timed with the timer on the SMARTboard; you are expected to complete the Get Ready within the time allowed.
- **Class Notes:** You are expected to take class notes, as they help you process and learn new information. In addition, class notes will be provided by the teacher and posted on the class website.
- **Out of Class Work:** You should expect to have homework 4 times per week. All homework assignments will be posted on the class website and must either be printed out or completed on loose leaf paper, (**Note: If you do homework on loose leaf, you *must* copy down the problems**). Some homework assignments will contain an online video portion. You are expected to watch the video and complete the assignment that goes along with it before class.
  > ***NOTE: Students must have internet access to be successful in this course. If you do not have home access students should expect to spend more time at school before or after class hours to complete out of class assignments.**

- **Supplies:** You must be prepared with the following materials. Random 'supply checks' will be done to ensure that students have the appropriate materials every day.
  - PENCIL and PEN
  - Algebra Binder: This binder should be at least a 1.5 inch binder with loose leaf lined paper and loose leaf graph paper. The binder should also have pockets, or students can add a folder to the binder.
  - Laptops and calculators will be supplied for in-class work when needed.

- **Class Website**: You should check the class website daily. The class site has all homework assignments, review materials, answer keys, links to videos, and course calendar.

ischoolpolymath.com

- **Respect/Behavior:** You are young adults and will be treated as such. That means I expect you to be respectful of your teacher and your fellow classmates, just as we will be respectful of you. I expect you to come to class prepared to learn and put in your best effort.

- **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to complete all assignments individually and honestly. Students are welcome to work together on homework assignments, but assignments should not be identical. All test, quizzes and exams and any other mastery assignment should be completed individually. Students who not complete an assignment honestly will be reported in JupiterGrades and to the assistant principal.

- **Specific Classroom Guidelines**
  - Do not talk while another person in the room is speaking.
  - Raise your hand if you have something to share.
  - No hats or cell phones- I will take them from you.
  - Water bottles with lids are okay- please don't leave your garbage in my room.
  - You may chew gum but not chomp, blow bubbles, or snap it.
  - If you don't do your homework- I will be disappointed in you.
  - If you have a positive attitude, study, and do your homework you will get treats!
  - Office hours are meant for YOU- please use them!!!

Course Timeline (tentative)

Below is a timeline for this year's algebra course. This is a general idea of what topics will be taught each quarter. A detailed calendar of class events will be available on the class website.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Unit 1: Beat the Basics	Unit 4: Inequalities	Unit 7: Polynomials	Unit 11: Rational Functions
Unit 2: Solving Equations	Unit 5: Systems of Linear Functions	Unit 8: Factoring	Unit 12: Operations with Functions
Unit 3: Linear Functions	Unit 6: Exponential and Radical Functions	Unit 9: Quadratic Functions	Regents Review
		Unit 10: Data Analysis	

Grading
** All grades will be posted in JupiterGrades*

It is the responsibility of the student and family to check JupiterGrades at least once a week.

Each student's grade is comprised of the following components:

Quizzes and Unit Tests: There will be at least one quiz per unit and a unit test that covers the topics for each unit. Students will be given 15 minutes for a quiz and 55 minutes for a test. If a student gets extra time they should talk to Ms. P to set up a time to get extra time (most likely at lunch or after school).

Exams: At the end of each quarter there will be a cumulative exam. The exam consists of two parts; part 1 is a teacher made test covering all of the material from the semester, part 2 is a Regents Exam. The exam is used to assess students' retention of knowledge and serve as a progress tracker towards passing the Regents Exam in June.

Grade Percentages:	
Mastery	***60%***
MASTERY POINTS	30%
Quizzes and Unit Tests	10%
Exams	10%
Beat the Basics Worksheets	5%
Problem Solving	5%
Productivity	***30%***
Home Work	20%
Online assignments	10%
Contributing Factors	***10%***
Attendance/Lateness	3.3%
Behavior/Participation	3.3%
Student Skills	3.3%

Beat the Basics Worksheets: After each unit test students will be given a Beat the Basics (BtB) Worksheet that will act as a refresher of basic, middle school math skills. The worksheet will cover mathematical operations with fractions, decimals, percents, basic word problems, plotting points and solving basic equations.

Problem Solving: Students will be assigned at least one problem solving activity per unit. Students will work together to solve a multistep, real word problem and present their solutions. Students will be graded on their ability to work through a complex problem,   mathematical input, group effort, and overall product

Homework Assignments:

- Homework will be assigned daily and will be comprised of computational problems as well as critical thinking problems covering the current topic and possibly older material. Each assignment is worth 10 points.
- Late homework assignments can be turned in up to one week late for half credit.   All late homework must be turned into the late folder in the front of the classroom with a late homework slip filled out and attached. No late work will be accepted without the late slip.
- Homework is to be completed independently. Copied homework is considered cheating. Any student suspected of cheating will not receive credit for the work and the incident will be logged in Jupitergrades.

Online Assignments: Approximately 3 times a week students will be assigned a video to watch with their homework. The video will cover material related to what's being covered in the classroom. Students will be responsible for taking notes during the video and completing the homework for that night.

Mastery Demonstration Task (MDT)
If a student does not pass a quarter they will receive a 55 on their report card.   Students will then have to fill out an MDT form and create a plan to make up missing mastery points with Ms. P. At the end of the school year, students who receive below a 65% may have the opportunity to recover this credit through an optional MDT summer program.

Student Absences
If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to complete the work that was due that day and attempt the newly assigned work.   Students should come to office hours as soon as they return to school to determine what must be done to catch up. A student will have one week to complete missing assignments due to absences without penalty. After one week, the student will have one additional week to complete the work for late credit. After two weeks no assignments will be accepted.

Completion of the Course
This course is meant to prepare students for the Algebra I Regents in June 2015.   All New York State students must pass (earn a 65 or higher) this test to graduate high school.   In order for students to pass this class they must pass the Algebra Regents with at least a **65** and earn at least **65%** of the mastery points possible throughout the year.   Once a student successfully completes Algebra I at the iSchool they will be promoted to Geometry the next school year.

Resources
- Students should be checking the class website daily: ischoolpolymath.com
- Students should get in the habit of checking iSchool email DAILY.
- Additional help is available during Office Hours -Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:20 – 4:00 pm in room 404. You can also set up a lunch appointment any day but Wednesday.
- If you have additional concerns please e-mail me at sprendergast@nycischool.org

Students and Guardians should go over this document and visit the class website to watch the *Welcome to Algebra* video *together*. Please sign and detach this portion of the paper and return it to Ms. P. It is due the next time you have algebra. If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms. P. or write it on the back of this slip.

I have read this document, watched the Welcome video, and understand the course I am taking and what is expected of me.

I have read this document, watched the Welcome video, and understand the course my child is taking and what is expected of them.

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(Student Signature)

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(Parent Signature)