**Algebra 1 Course Syllabus**

Dr. Garfinkel

2011- 2012

Welcome to Algebra 1! As your teacher, I am here to help you to do the best that you can and successfully pass this course. We must work together for this to happen. It is imperative that you stay on top of your work and attend school regularly. Please do not hesitate to speak with me as soon as any problems arise.

**Supplies:**

* Pencils and Erasers
* Notebook or binder for notes, class work, and homework
* Calculator (TI-83 or TI-84)
* Textbook

**Attendance:** Attendance in class is very important. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get the work and notes that you missed, either from me, from a classmate, or from my website, GarfinkelBHS.wikispaces.com. You will have two days for each day that you have an EXCUSED absence to complete the missed assignment(s), but you are encouraged to complete the work as soon as possible. If this is difficult for you because of multiple consecutive absences, please see me. Students with UNEXCUSED absences will not be permitted to make up the work that they missed. If you know that you will be missing class due to a field trip or other appointment, please let me know in advance so that I can give you the work that you will be missing. Please see the BHS Attendance Policy for more information.

**Grades:** Students will be graded on a cumulative point system. Grades will be updated and posted regularly.

Grades include the following:

* *Homework –*  Homework will be given almost every night and will be checked for a grade every day. If you do not understand an assignment, write about WHAT you don’t understand, give some sort of explanation. Something is always better than nothing and effort is highly valued. Homework assignments will be updated daily at GarfinkelBHS.wikispaces.com. No late homework will be accepted unless you were absent the day it was assigned or collected and the absence has been excused.
* *Classwork –*  Classwork assignments will be given most days and periodically collected and graded; these may be individual or group assignments. Students will also be given *learning checks* 2-3 times per week for immediate evaluation of student learning.
* *Formal assessments* – There will be small quizzes during a section of work and a larger test/project at the end of each chapter.
* *Participation* – Students are expected to participate in discussions, group work, and presentations during class time.

**Grades in this class are EARNED, not given!**

**Textbook and Resources:**

This class will work out of the College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) Algebra Connections text. This curriculum focuses on problem solving and conceptual understanding through group work and collaborative experiences. Please be sure to bring your book to class every day.

Additional Resources:

* [**GarfinkelBHS.wikispaces.com**](http://www.GarfinkelUDHS.wikispaces.com)(Dr. Garfinkel’s website)
* **www.cpm.org/student.html** (Student support provided by CPM)
* **www.thatquiz.com** (Review for mathematics concepts and skills)

# Classroom Rules:

* Be responsible. You are responsible for your own learning, this includes, but is not limited to: coming to class on time and having the necessary supplies; writing down your homework and completing the assignments; studying for all tests and quizzes; and, most importantly, you are responsible for your behavior in my classroom and the ways in which you relate to classmates and to your teachers. You are responsible for your actions.
* Be attentive. No sleeping or putting your head down during class.
* No eating in the classroom unless directed by me. Only water bottles are permitted.
* I will dismiss you from class. You must remain seated until the bell rings and you have been dismissed.

**Electronics and cell phone policy**

* All phones and other electronics (including earphones) must be completely out of sight during class time.  Acceptable times for use are before school, during lunch, or after school.  Reasons such as “They’re not even on” or “I was turning it off” or “It was an emergency” or “It was my mother” are not valid.  Turn it off and keep it out of sight.

Consequences:

* One warning will be issued at the start of school to the entire class and communicated to families via the syllabus
* If seen, the electronic device will be confiscated and given to Mr. Melgoza (Vice Principal) with referral to OCI.

**Often Asked Questions:**

*“When will I ever use this stuff?”*

Most of what you do when you solve a math problem is develop a strategy and carry it out. So maybe you won’t use the specific math concept learned, as much as you will the problem solving techniques and critical things skills that went along with it.

*“What if I have questions about my grade or the material?”*

You may speak to me after class or after school about any questions you may have. I am available before school at 8:00am everyday and after school most days. I can usually be found in room C336. Please confirm with me if you plan to stay after school.

**Teacher Contact Information:**

Dr. Garfinkel

kategarfinkel@berkeley.net

Class/Homework website:

GarfinkelBHS.wikispaces.com

Please contact me for any questions or concerns. On campus I can usually be found in room C336.

Please keep the above information for future reference and return the bottom portion to the teacher.

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Please read the front and back of this paper with your child. You and your child should sign below, acknowledging that you have read this and understand my expectations. Please return the signed portion of this sheet to school tomorrow and keep the remaining syllabus for your reference. I look forward to meeting you at Back-to-School Night. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Garfinkel

**Student:**

I have read this syllabus and understand it, including the electronics/cell-phone policy:

Student name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_       Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):**

I have read this syllabus and understand it, including the electronics/cell-phone policy:

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone number: (      )                                       Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to be contacted via: □phone □email