

algebra II & trig

course expectations

BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL 2013-2014

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greetings!

Here is some information that will explain what you'll be learning, and what is expected of you as a student.

how the course will be taught:

The class will be taught through a combination of teacher presentations and problem solving sessions. Every day you will review your homework in small groups for the first 10 minutes of class. This time should be spent comparing answers, getting help with the problems you had trouble with, and helping others with ones that you may have gotten but they had trouble with. After homework has been checked and corrected, some new topics will be presented or explored, and you'll work on some new problems. I may give you an outline for notes.

teaching goes both ways

You are now at a point in your education where you are responsible for your own learning. You are old enough to know what to do when you are having difficulty. Please then, answer the following (pick one):

When you are feeling lost in class, you should:

- (a) wait until the next class and hope that it will all begin to make sense
- (b) not do anything...it's only one concept and there will be a big test on many concepts, so no big deal if you don't learn it.
- (c) ask someone for help – whether it be Ms Hitchcock, a table-mate, a friend or a teacher at the Math Center.
- (d) watch Adventure Time and hope that Princess Bubblegum will explain the concept.

You are in this class to learn some math – and even though we are in this journey together (remember: **I am always on your side**), that does **not** absolve you of responsibility. For this class to run smoothly, for us to have a good time, to get all we need to get accomplished in mere months, you need to:

- ✓ come to class prepared every day – do your daily practice (homework)
- ✓ spend quality time – daily – working on your homework
- ✓ not be afraid to ask questions about concepts or homework problems you are struggling with
- ✓ be an engaged participant in every class
- ✓ be kind and respectful to the other members of the class

If you keep your end of the bargain, I guarantee you that your mind will be brimming with intellectual riches at the end of the year. You will have learned a lot.

Just as I expect only the best from you, I want you to expect the best from me. I promise to come to each class well prepared, ready to embark on our daily adventure. I promise to try my best to make my presentations clear and interesting. I promise to respect you.

Materials

Please bring the following to class every day:

- Completed Homework
- Your Planner
- Your 2 pocket folder
- Filler Paper/Graph Paper to take notes
- Graphing Calculator – You may be able to find a good used one (I have) on Craig's list.
- Pencils or Pens

All, and I do mean all, graphs that are done for homework need to be on graph paper. Free graph paper is available on the internet. Google *free graph paper* and you'll come up with numerous sites. No graph paper = no credit.

On your homework, write the following header:

Jane Smith
9/27/2010
Page 37 #2 – 17 odd

[Name]
[Date Assigned]
[Page(s)/Problems]

I *prefer* that you use pencil. Math done in pen is hard to undo. Pencils, however, come with erasers.

absences

The general policy is that if you are absent for n **class** days, you have n **school** days to make up tests, quizzes and get credit for homework. For example, if you missed 3 class days, you have 3 school days for you to make up a test/quiz, and submit homework. If work hasn't been made up by 2:45 pm of the third day, you will get no credit.

tardies

Simply put: You are expected to be on time! You are considered tardy if you are not in your seat with materials ready at the start of class. Anyone entering class after the class has begun is late. Tardiness is reflected in your daily attendance record which is tallied on your report cards.

Additionally, for every minute that you are late, you will need to make up 5 times that amount for me. For example, if you're 5 minutes late, you need to come and sit with me for 25 minutes. Make-up time is generally during X Block.

Tardy students will not have extra time to complete quizzes or tests. Tardiness beyond 15 minutes will result in an unexcused absence (AWOL), with all of the appropriate ramifications.

If tardiness becomes a chronic problem, I will contact the dean and a parent. If a previous teacher has kept you late, be sure you ask him/her to give you a note; if you arrive late without such a note, I will need to send you back to the other teacher, who probably won't be too happy to have class disrupted.

cheating

The crux of this issue is “**don't**”. Because we have had, and will continue to have, many discussions of this at BHS, I believe you know what it is. And if you don't know what constitutes cheating, we'll be talking about it in class. So, don't copy homework, exchange answers on an exam or quiz, tell a student in another section of the class about an exam, or do other morally bankrupt things.

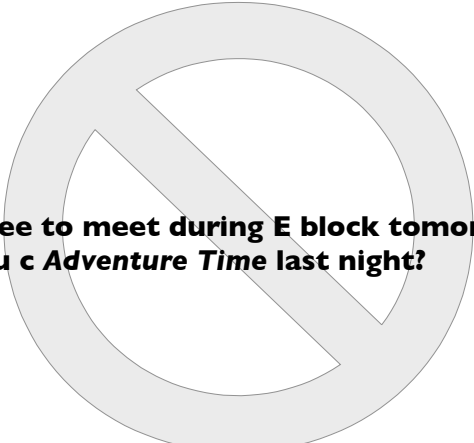
If you do cheat, and I find out about it, not only will I have lost faith in you but you will get a 0 (zero) on the assignment and your parents, counselor and dean will be notified. Read the BHS Student Handbook for more information.

An important note, however, is that I encourage you to talk with other students about concepts, homework problems, etc. You can talk with others about the homework problems, but when you write them up, you must write them up separately. You cannot copy homework from others. **That's cheating**. Again, if you have questions, just ask me.

email

I generally check my email several times per day. However, I don't guarantee a response to anything sent after 5 pm.

On the topic of email:

 <p>Hey, r u free to meet during E block tomorrow? Did u c Adventure Time last night?</p>	<p>Hi Ms Hitchcock.</p> <p>I have been having some difficulty understanding how to multiply complex numbers. Do you have any time to meet Tuesday (tomorrow) or Wednesday, to help me out? I'd really appreciate it.</p> <p>My free blocks are: Tuesday: E or before school Wednesday: E or before school</p> <p>Thanks.</p> <p>Jane Student</p>
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extra help

I am always available to meet with you for additional support. My brain doesn't do well with times and dates so please send me an email and check the calendar on www.hitchcockmath.weebly.com or use the sign up sheet.

Don't forget to use the math center! It's open **every single morning** from 7:35 – 8:20 and is a terrific place to drop in and get help.

extra time on exams

Some of you qualify for extra time on assessments. If you want to use your extra time, **you must let me know the day before the assessment.** You **must** take your extra time on the same day of the assessment. I will give you a note if you have to go late to after school activities. You have the right to the extra time, but it comes with this basic responsibility.

I am absolutely serious about academic integrity and extra time brings up many, many issues. Most importantly, you cannot tell anyone what is on the exam – in ANY form, and you cannot study, ask questions, or open your book or notes from the time you first see the exam and when you finish the exam.

placement

To go into PreCalculus next year, you need a final assessment grade of B-

grading

formal assessments (75%)

You know what these are. I will try my best to get tests and quizzes back to you in 3 class days (usually less), assuming all students in the class have already taken it.

You know, right answers only mean so much to me. What's really important is seeing you show *how* you got your answers. Why? I want you to be able to effectively communicate to someone else your thought process. It's a life skill. **Show your work on assessments** if you want credit!

daily practice (10%)

Basically, this is your homework. I'm calling it "daily practice", however, to emphasize that the problems assigned are meant to reinforce what you've learned in class. The problems aren't meant to be mindless busy work – though I know sometimes they can feel that way. I try, but am not always successful, to keep homework under 30 minutes.

When working out of the book, I will attempt to assign mainly odd problems. The answers are in the back. **You will have to check your odd answers in the back of the book and correct them if necessary.** I've found that when you are given the right answer, it may help you discover the steps that were taken to arrive at the solution. Make sure you note with a different colored pen/pencil, if you didn't get the correct solution. When we go over answers that are not in the book, you will have to mark these right or wrong also.

I do NOT accept late work unless you were absent.

I will sometimes:

- collect HW and grade it for completeness (if you don't have it, no credit)
- walk around the classroom to check for completeness (if you don't have it, no credit)

If you worked with someone else, please write his or her name down on your paper under your header. But remember, you may talk about the problems, but when you write up the answers on your homework page, you must be working independently.

While I do have a syllabus, I may modify the assigned problems based on what we did in class. If you're not sure, please check my website : www.hitchcockmath.weebly.com to get the assignment.

Your homework must be more than just some chicken scratch and an answer. Part of this course is learning how to communicate math well. **You should show all your work, in a neat manner, so that someone reading it can follow your thought process.** Solutions aren't worth much in this class. Solutions with solid work are worth a lot.

classic math/logic problems (15%)

You will have math problems to investigate/ponder/discover patterns and write up what you have learned.

extra credit

Please don't ask me if there's anything you can do for extra credit. I don't give extra credit assignments.

I must also state that depending on how things unfold this year, I reserve the right to change things. If things will be changed, I promise to be very explicit about the changes.