

# Syllabus – Algebra 2008/09

Ms. Hanna Choat, Room 322

Welcome to the course! I am looking forward to working together with you as you develop your skill and understanding in math.

## Goals of the course

The course will focus on mastery of the California State Standards for Algebra I. In working toward this end you will grow toward the Holy Names *expected schoolwide learning results* of being

...*intellectually competent* – skilled at Algebraic reasoning

...*committed to personal growth* – always prepared to improve, whether your math skills are strong or weak

...*of service to others* – by contributing to a class climate where everyone can learn, and by sharing your understanding with others

## Materials you must bring to every class:

- Textbook: McDougal Littell's Algebra I
- Binder and binder paper
- Graph paper/ Square ruled paper (preferably in the binder)
- Math Journal - Composition book (NOT spiral bound)
- At least two pencils (so that one of them is always sharp! Pencil sharpening can not always be done in class)
- Colored pencils – four colors or more (strongly recommended – but not mandatory)
- A calculator that can take square and cube roots.  
Note: You will need a graphing calculator for later courses and it would be wise to start familiarizing yourself with it now. However, no assignments or assessments in Algebra I will *require* the use of a graphing calculator.

## How to work in class:

- Be in your seat with materials ready, writing on the Opener assignment, when the bell rings.
- Follow directions. Ask if you are not sure what is expected.
- Work hard. Spend time wisely.
- Be nice to everyone. Always.

Infractions against school or class rules may affect your citizenship grade for the class. You will be informed if your citizenship grade is in danger.

### **How to work at home:**

- Follow the Math Department Format for Written Work. The Homework Comment Code page lists possible ways of losing points. Don't lose points.
- Start early so that you have time to ask questions before the due date.
- If you are completely stuck
  - e-mail Ms. Choat before 10:30 pm of the day before the due date and ask for a lunch meeting. If you do not have internet access you may leave a voice message, but e-mail is strongly preferred.
  - Complete the work during a lunch meeting within a week of the original due date. In general, credit for late work will be given ONLY after this lunch meeting.
  - This policy may be changed to a more restrictive policy at any time during the semester. In that event you will be informed.

### **How your grade is calculated:**

Quarter grades and progress reports:

- Homework and Classwork: 30%
- Tests and Assessments: 70%

Semester grade:

- Cumulative grade before final exam: 85%
- Final exam: 15%

Note: Many of the assessments may be retaken during tutoring hours if you wish to improve a grade.

### **How to get some more help with Math:**

- Meet Ms. Brownell during Math Lab hours – all lunches and most afternoons. Her office is between the cafeteria and the parking lot. Go and see her the first week, even if you are not stuck on a math problem yet!
- Meet Ms. Choat during tutoring hours – hours will be posted on the website within a week.

### **How to contact Ms. Choat:**

- e-mail to [hchoat@hnhsoakland.org](mailto:hchoat@hnhsoakland.org) (preferred!)
- call (510) 450 – 1110 ext 253

## Parent/ Guardian contact info and remarks

*Please return this sheet with your student by Monday 8/18. Thank you so much!*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name).

My phone numbers are

\_\_\_\_\_ (home)

\_\_\_\_\_ (work)

\_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

I have

\_\_\_ read the syllabus

\_\_\_ made a note of Ms. Choat's contact information

\_\_\_ kept a copy of the Math Department Format for Written Work that my student may refer to while doing homework.

I would like to add that:

Date and signature: \_\_\_\_\_