Mrs. Larkins

Team Phoenix

Algebra 1/2013-2014

**Algebra 1 Class Expectations and Policies**

Welcome to Algebra 1 Class! I am excited about the coming school year and getting to know my new students. Algebra is a powerful problem solving tool that many people use in their daily lives. I find algebra fascinating and amazing and I hope you will too.

This class is the equivalent of high school Algebra 1 course and you may find that it is much more challenging than your previous math classes. If you find it difficult, don’t be discouraged, just keep working at it and you will learn even more from the challenge. And remember – I am here to help you succeed. ☺

We will move quickly, usually learning a new concept every day. It is very important that you do not fall behind. Most lessons build on previous lessons. Neglecting to master a concept or two may make it very difficult to learn subsequent concepts. Do your homework EVERY night and ask questions IMMEDIATELY if something is confusing. Our goal is to have all students develop a solid base of algebra skills and be ready to succeed in Honors Geometry next year.

The following explains class expectations and policies. Please keep this page in your math binder in the resources section. A copy will also be posted on the team website for reference if needed.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to come to class ready to learn. You should bring pencils, eraser, planner, text book and binder to every class. You are expected to be attentive and actively participate in all class activities and discussions.

**Grading:** The majority of your grade for this class (approximately 80%) will come from demonstrating your level of learning on quizzes, tests and projects. The remaining portion (~20%) of your grade will be based on homework and classwork. Grades for the week’s work will usually be posted to Infinite Campus no later than Sunday afternoon. Sunday evening is a good time to check your progress on the portal.

**Homework:** Homework is assigned so that students can independently practice skills learned in class and is an important part of mastering mathematics. Homework will be assigned on most week nights and sometimes on weekends. Homework will be checked and graded based on effort and completeness. All work must be shown to receive full credit. Late homework will not be accepted unless I receive a note or email from your parent explaining the emergency that prevented you from doing your homework.

**Extra Help:** I am available for extra help during Directed Study, most days after school and some days before school. Students needing extra help should see me before school or at the beginning or end of class to request a pass for DS or make an appointment for before or after school. Please do not wait until just before a quiz or test to ask for help. Get help as soon as you find something confusing.

**Retaking Tests:** Test retakes may be offered, at my discretion, when students have shown a genuine effort to learn but have not met the basic learning expectations (i.e. have scored less than ~70%). Students choosing to retake a test must take responsibility for preparing (getting extra help, reviewing, and practicing) before the retake. A successful retake will bring the student’s grade up to whatever the retake cut off score was. (Example: All students scoring less than 72% are allowed to retake the test. Retake scores will be a maximum of 72%.)

Course information such homework assignments, handouts, answer keys and links to helpful websites can be found on the Algebra page of our team website, [www.phoenix8.weebly.com](http://www.phoenix8.weebly.com).

I am looking forward to working with you and being your guide to learning algebra.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Larkins

**Please complete below and return the lower portion of the page to me.**

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Algebra 1 Class Expectations and Policies (2013-2014)

My signature indicates that I have read and understand the class policies and expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Student name – printed) (Student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Parent name – printed) (Parent signature) (Date)