Mrs. Larkins

Team Phoenix

2013-2014

**Pre-Algebra Class Expectations and Policies**

Welcome to Pre-Algebra! I am excited about the coming school year and look forward to helping all of my students succeed in my class. **Learning math is important.** Math is a powerful tool that can make your life easier by helping you make reasoned decisions, manage your personal finances, achieve your educational goals, start and run a successful business or be a more valuable employee.

Our focus this year will be on learning basic algebra concepts, using those concepts to solve everyday problems and improving calculation skills (fractions and decimals and integers, oh my!) Our goal is to have all students ready to succeed in either Algebra I or Honors Algebra 1 next year in high school.

In my pre-algebra classes this year we will be using a new program. Instead of a text book, the Pearson **digits** program uses computer based lessons. Students will have the option of logging in to their account to do their homework online. Doing homework online will give student immediate feedback on their work and assistance if they get stuck. Online remedial lessons are also available for students who may be weak in topics from previous grades and enrichment lessons are provided for students who are ready for additional challenges. It will be a bit of a learning process to get us all up to speed on using **digits**, but it includes many features that will allow lessons to be more easily tailored to each student’s needs. More detailed information on the program will be provided as we get started on our first unit after Labor Day.

The following explains class expectations and policies. Please keep this letter 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 and binder to every class. You are expected to be attentive and actively participate in all class activities and discussions. Learning is not a spectator sport. It requires your effort!

**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 occasionally 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 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. Seek 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 yet 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 score 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 as homework assignments, handouts and links to helpful websites can be found on the Pre-Algebra page of our team website, [www.phoenix8.weebly.com](http://www.phoenix8.weebly.com).

I am looking forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Larkins

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

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Pre-Algebra Class Expectations and Policies (2013-2014)

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

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(Student name – printed) (Student signature)

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