

Integrated Algebra
City Honors School
2009-2010

Instructor: Ms. Cecilia Doody
After school help: M & Th 2:30-3:00
In school help: Tu, W, F 7:30-8:00
Web page: <http://www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/cdoody>

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child is enrolled in the first year of their three-year sequence of required high-school level Regents mathematics courses; algebra, geometry, and advanced 2 & trigonometry. In this course students will build on their conceptual knowledge while continuing to develop fluency and accuracy with mathematical procedures involving algebra. They will accomplish this while solving problems that are new and relevant, as written in the New York State Mathematics Science & Technology Standard 3. Students will also learn how to learn mathematics by reading, and they will communicate their learning processes by writing and speaking.

This course is designed to lay a complete foundation in algebra thereby preparing students to meet the challenge of all future math courses. Students will be preparing to take the NYS Integrated Algebra Regents exam at the end of the course. This course is rigorous and challenging and yet doable when enough effort is applied. Mastering algebraic skills and then applying them to solve problems is a continuous process that requires time and effort.

To guarantee a successful year:

Students will need:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a 1.5-inch 3-ring binder, 5 dividers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a pad or package of graph paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pencils and lined paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• either a 100 sheet spiral notebook and a paper folder with pockets or two paper folders with pockets and loose-leaf paper for Practice Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a TI-84+ or TI-nSpire graphing calculator for home use	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the supplied textbook- <u>Algebra 1</u> by Glencoe Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a ruler or straightedge for home use

Students are expected to:

- Read the textbook or materials provided. Read with a pencil and paper in hand to work out given examples.
- Ask questions of your classmates, your teacher or another math teacher, or anyone who can help you if you are having trouble understanding a topic. Don't wait for the topic to come to you. **Go after it.**
- Do the practice problems. Seek out more problems, and examples on the Internet to help you learn a skill. Don't stop until you've got it!
- **Come for help** before homeroom, or after school. Don't wait until you get to the end of a unit. Don't let days and days of not understanding go by. Mathematics builds on previous knowledge and having gaps will make further learning more difficult.
- Keep up with your work, and monitor your learning. Be in charge of your learning process. Learn how to learn. Be honest with yourself and your teacher about your effort. You're in charge of your success.

Grading Procedures & Grading Scale

A student's quarter grade will be composed of the following:	
Participation & Organization – 15%	- see below
Graded Assignments (GA) – 25%	- 10 to 12 per quarter long & short range assignments
Quizzes – 25%	- 5 to 8 per quarter
Tests – 35%	- 2 to 4 per quarter

Course Grades will be updated weekly and will be available for viewing on my web page: <http://buffaloschools.org/webpages/cdoody>. You will specify a unique password that will be required to view the grade reports.

A NYS Regents exam will be given at the end of the course. All students must have a passing average for the four marking periods **and** must pass the exam with a 65 or higher. Mastery at 85 or higher on the exam is preferable.

- Practice assignments will be made available each day for students to do to reinforce concepts learned in class. Students are welcome to search out more problems to do for practice if needed. If no practice is necessary students may skip the practice assignments.
- In the case of illness or a legal absence students should make every effort to get missed assignments from a classmate before returning to school, or by checking my website. Students who are tardy, have music lessons, or some other school absence are required to **stop in that day** to turn in any work that is due and to pick up new assignments. Not doing so will result in a zero for work that is due.
- Participation and organization are a necessary and important part of being successful in this course. Participation and organization will count 15% of the students overall quarter grade. Participation includes arriving on time for class with necessary supplies, following class procedures, staying on task in class, working cooperatively with classmates, contributing to class discussions, and asking questions when needed either during class or during help sessions. Organization includes completing and turning in the Practice-Log Record Sheet, maintaining an organized notebook, and regular use of the school Planner.

Major Units of Study

- Linear Functions – Solving equations & Inequalities, Solving Systems of Linear Equations & Inequalities
- Quadratic Functions & Other Nonlinear Functions – Operations with Polynomials & Factoring, Solving Quadratic Equations, Algebraic Fractions, Square Roots & Radicals, Exponential Growth & Decay, Trigonometric Functions
- Statistics
- Probability

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by e-mail at cdoody@buffaloschools.org. I can also be reached by phone at 816-3130 ext. 1352 before 8:00 am, or after 2:20 PM. E-mail is my preferred method of contact, and I read my e-mail several times a day. I am delighted to be teaching your child and I'm looking forward to a spectacularly successful school year.

Sincerely,

Cecilia H. Doody
Mathematics Teacher