

COURSE SYLLABUS

Algebra I

- I INSTRUCTOR:** Jack Keen
- II. OBJECTIVE:** Algebra I is the first and perhaps the most important of all of the college preparatory mathematics courses at JHS. Its primary purpose is to build a solid foundation for learning and understanding more advanced skills necessary for Geometry, Algebra II, Algebra III, Trigonometry, Analysis, and Calculus.
- III. PRE-REQUISITE:** This is the first of the college preparatory mathematics courses and is designed for the excellent or above average math students. In most cases students are placed in this class at the recommendation of his/her previous math teacher or by the guidance counselor after the students and their parents indicate their intention to pursue the college preparatory curriculum track.
- IV: CONTENT:** Algebra I will cover, among its many topics, basic algebraic concepts including finite and infinite number sets; operations with real numbers; application of variables; graphing linear equations and inequalities on a coordinate plane; solving equations, inequalities, quadratic equations, systems of equations, operations with exponents, polynomials, and radicals.
- V: GRADING PROCEDURES:** A student's final semester grade will be based strictly on their test grade average plus a final exam which counts 15% of the final grade. However, the final average can also be significantly affected by the "homework notebook" grades for that semester.

Normally the "homework notebook" grade can raise or lower the final average by only one "letter grade" either up or down and only if the average (without the notebook) is already very close between two letter grades. However, an over-all "unsatisfactory" semester notebook grade will automatically result in a failing grade for the course. In other words, a minimum grade of satisfactory on the "homework notebook" is necessary in order to receive a passing grade for the course. Detailed information concerning the student preparation of the notebook and the teacher's grading procedures of the notebook has already been given to each student. **It is imperative that students keep up with assignments daily**, since the notebooks may be taken up for grading at any unannounced times during the semester.

- VI. DISCIPLINE:** Discipline problems are not tolerated in my class. Appropriate school behavior is expected at all times. We have for the last 48 years had only two rules in my classroom:

1. Be inside the classroom door when the tardy bell rings.
2. Once you are in the classroom, conduct yourself as a student should.

However, if problems arise, "in-class corrections" will be made, followed by the possibility of after school detention, temporary removal of the student from the class, or other appropriate action. Further problems or serious infractions could result in office referrals.