



P.S. duPont Middle School

Course Syllabus

Name of Course: Fast Math/Honors Algebra Department: Mathematics

School Year: 2018-2019 Name of Teacher: Mr. Fitzhugh

Email: James.fitzhugh@bsd.k12.de.us Website: www.brandywineschools.org/Domain/879

I. *Required Materials*

Each student will need at least 2 graph paper spiral notebooks and a 1½ inch 3-ring binder that is only used for math. All warm-up exercises, notes, classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests, should be ordered by date and kept in the binder. **Besides the binder and the spiral notebooks, students must bring loose leaf paper, pencils, and a ruler to class every day.** Graph paper will be needed daily starting in Chapter 4. Being prepared for class means having the required materials on your desk when the bell rings.

II. *Homework Expectations*

Homework assignments will be given almost every night (including weekends). These assignments are to be completed on the day they are assigned. It is the responsibility of an absent student to get any missed assignments from Mr. Fitzhugh's teacher page or by seeing him before or after school. Missed work must be made up within the number of days allowed under Brandywine School District policy. Messy or incomplete work will not receive credit. Pride and the appropriate amount of time should be given to each assignment. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that his/her work is presentable and completed as instructed. **Pencil is the only acceptable writing instrument in Mr. Fitzhugh's class.** Any class work or homework done in pen will not be given credit.

III. *Grading Policy and Expectations*

Grades will be based on homework, quizzes, unit tests, and cumulative assessments. 30% of the marking period grade will be based on formative assessments and 70% will be based on summative assessments.

It is expected that students take all quizzes and tests home to be signed by a parent/guardian. It is also expected that students correct any missed problems before returning the corrected and signed assessment to Mr. Fitzhugh.

If a student scores below 80% (below a B average) on any quiz or test, after school arrangements should be made as soon as possible to review the material.

IV. *Daily classroom instruction will consist of:*

- Reviewing concepts from the previous day's lesson and answering questions
- Presenting new content or extending topics from a previous lesson
- Individual/whole group practice with the new content

V. **Learning resources utilized during this course will include:**

- Text: *Larson Algebra I* (Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff)
- IXL sign in page: www.ixl.com/signin/psdms
- Visit www.classzone.com or www.kahnacademy.org for more online help/practice.

VI. **Other important items specific to this course:**

- Math is fun! Yes, I really believe that. In addition to math skills, I will be emphasizing good life long habits of learning like persistence, impulse control, inquisitiveness, reflection, and respect for others.
- Fast Math/Honors Algebra is a very intense program designed for the top performing students in our district. I am committed to continuing the program and would like to see as many students as possible find success in the fast math/honors track throughout high school. However, this program is not for everyone. Pre-requisite skills must be mastered before success in Algebra can be found. There must also be a commitment from both student and parent to completing all of the assignments and seeking help immediately when needed. Students and parents need to understand that children develop mentally at different rates, and that regardless of IQ, most 12-14 year old children are not ready for the abstractness of Algebra. When any student struggles this year, be willing to talk with me and work with me to find the reason for the difficulty. The sooner the problems can be identified, the greater the likelihood that we can work together to assure success in this course.

VII. **Homework Procedures**

**** Before you start your homework, please read through your notes! ****

1. Put the assignment number, page number, and the problem numbers on the top line (left) of every sheet of paper you use. Put your name, date, and period on the top right of every sheet. **The front of the page has the holes on the LEFT.**
2. Copy the original problem exactly as it appears in the textbook. Copy any diagrams, but do not copy word problems. We will have a different procedure for word problems.
3. Show all your steps **VERTICALLY** putting “equal sign under equal sign”.
4. Circle or box in your final answer. Word problems must be answered with a sentence.
5. Skip a line (or two) between problems. Write on the back of the paper.
6. Check the answer keys on my website for steps and answers before coming to class.
7. If you get stuck on a particular problem, copy it and leave space before going on.

Before you skip any problems, make sure that you have

- A. Reread your notes and examples from class
- B. Looked at the examples in your textbook

After doing all these things, if you are getting totally frustrated, write down specific questions of what is confusing you and we will clear it up in school the next day. Put your math away and do something else!!

VIII. **Course Sequence and Assignments**

Check my teacher page daily for important information about upcoming assessments, class notes, assignments, and answer keys. (www.brandywineschools.org/Domain/879)