

September, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Algebra 1 Students,

We're back to school and I hope your son/daughter gets off to a great start! Research has shown that, of all the factors that contribute to a student's success, YOU are the most important factor! By encouraging a good attitude towards learning and by being involved in what your child is doing at school, you are truly helping them to be successful.

How can you get involved?

- Your child has a **syllabus** with information about math class and **grading procedures** - please take a few minutes to look it over so you are familiar with the way your child will be earning his/her grades. (You can also find a copy of the syllabus on my school webpage.)
- Please check **Power School** regularly so that you are always informed about your child's progress. I use this as a communication tool and oftentimes leave comments there to help explain certain scores.
- I strongly encourage you to **contact me** if you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year.
- Please discuss with your child and me in the next week or so to determine how best we can best support your child's math growth. After analyzing data from the past few years, the math department and administration has determined a one-year algebra course better prepares your child for success after high school. The expectation is that all students give their best effort and seek help quickly when frustrated and/or confused. Throughout the year algebra students will have the opportunity to receive extra help before school, after school, possibly in a study hall and/or math lab.

We have an excellent math curriculum at Lancaster – one that will provide your child with the necessary mathematics required in his/her future. Just taking a math class, however, does not ensure success. You and I can support your child and help them succeed by:

- 1) Requiring them to be an active class participant, whether in the classroom or virtual – students who have frequent absences also tend to have lower grades. Since mathematics is a discipline that builds on previous concepts, if students miss class they have to go back and pick up what they missed before they can go on.
- 2) Encouraging them to ask questions – students will want to ask for help as soon as they need it. Waiting too long oftentimes causes problems to “snowball”. I am available for extra help before/after school, during homeroom time, and often during my prep periods.
- 3) Expecting homework completion to be their **best effort** – students who do all homework assignments without copying tend to have higher grades and a more solid understanding than students who do not make homework a priority. My goal is, not just to teach the math your son/daughter needs but, to help them establish good study habits and a sense of self-discipline and responsibility.
- 4) Checking Google Classroom/ school web page. You will be informed of homework assignments, test/quiz dates, and you will find notes/ video lessons regarding the current sections we are studying. **If your child is not present, please require them to check**

Google Classroom for current information ASAP. If as a parent, you would like to receive notifications regarding assignments and due dates, let us know. We can add you to the class as a parent. Please note: We do not mark assignments as completed on this site. You still have to check PowerSchool to see if your child did the assignment.

Since we have a common goal, the education of your child, I want to keep the lines of communication open so that goal can be achieved. To help me do my part, I'm asking you to **please email me** so I have your current email address (and/or phone number if you prefer). This will give you the opportunity to give me your contact information and **it will let me know that you have read this letter and the course syllabus.** **Please include the student's name and the name of their math course in the subject line** (that way, I can find your email should it go to my "junk mail" folder by accident).

I will use your email address as my first choice for contacting you unless you specify otherwise. (If you are unable to email, please send a note to school with your contact information.) Feel free to add any other information that you feel would be beneficial for me to know.

We are excited about the new team teaching opportunity for all Algebra 1 students. We are looking forward to working with you and your child no matter what that may look like this year. Please don't hesitate to contact us for any reason.

Thanks LHS Math Team!
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