

LIPSCOMB ACADEMY
Algebra 1 Honors

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
--Colossians 3:17

Welcome to a new school year at Lipscomb Academy. I am very excited about working with your student this year and partnering with you to help them have a great year. I aspire to create a positive and enthusiastic learning environment. It is my intention for your child to always feel they have a “home court advantage” when they are in my classroom.

This is a high school honors class. It is very important that your student works very diligently, as the grade from this course will be on their high school transcript. As it is an honors course, three phase points are added to the average each nine weeks. This is to make up for the added difficulty of the class.

It is important that this class is taken very seriously. Each day’s lesson is important, as mathematics tends to build on itself day-by-day. Please encourage your child to study each night. Most importantly, they need to let me know of any struggles they are having with the material. It is important to not get behind.

Below is a brief curriculum overview:

1ST NINE WEEKS: Chapters 1 – 4

- Linear Equations and Functions

2ND NINE WEEKS: Chapters 5 – 6

- Linear Inequalities

- Systems of Linear Equations/Inequalities

3RD NINE WEEKS: Chapters 7 – 9

- Polynomials

- Quadratic and Exponential Functions

4TH NINE WEEKS: Chapters 10 – 12

- Radical and Rational Functions

- Statistics and Probability

Ways parents can help:

- Reinforce the importance of practice.
- Avoid missing class – math is a subject that builds.
- Promote taking thorough notes and reviewing them each night.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for their education by completing and correcting practice problems, staying organized, and asking questions.

I am so excited about the eTextbook this year! I hope you will encourage your student to take full advantage of the personal tutor, self-check quizzes and other features available at <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com>. Here are a few other math websites that are great for extra practice and review:

<http://www.coolmath.com/index.html>

<http://www.math.com/>

<http://www.algebrahelp.com/>

<http://www.khanacademy.org/>

Grading System:

Our math grade will be a combination of points and weighted average.

Practice	20%	Anything graded for effort, completion, participation (most practice, notes check)
Quiz	20%	Anything graded for accuracy (some practice, quizzes, classwork, small projects)
Tests	60%	Tests, Major Projects

Calculator Use:

We will use calculators a lot this year. However, I retain the right not to allow calculators on certain assignments. Please encourage your child to work without it whenever possible. Also, as an algebra student, your child should have a TI-84 calculator. As you know, these are expensive. Please find a way to write/engrave a name on it because calculators do get lost.

RenWeb and Schoology:

These are wonderful tools to keep home and school connected. Access RenWeb often. Not only will you be able to see your student's grades on RenWeb, but you can also see the plans for the week and the daily assigned practice problems. Please refer to RenWeb when your child is absent.

Schoology is an innovative learning management system we are adding this year. It has many features that will enhance learning along with our iPad initiative.

Extra Help:

Please encourage your student to let me know if he/she needs help. I am more than happy to schedule a time before or after school to work with students. We are preparing for high school next year, so please foster maturity and responsibility.

Contact Information:

Communication is key to a successful parent-teacher relationship. I will send progress reports and class updates periodically through RenWeb. If you ever have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to a great year!

sara.mitchell@lipscomb.edu

For even more information please view our "Meet the Teacher" webpage:

<http://lipscombacademy.weebly.com/mrs-mitchell.html>

"If knowledge is power, then enthusiasm is the switch."

~Quantum Learning