**St. Athanasius Academy**

Pre-algebra Syllabus

**Teacher Information**

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Contact instructions: Please try Moodle or email first, if questions cannot be answered that way, we can make an appointment for phone calls.

**Course Description**In this pre-algebra class students will cover topics such as: prime and composite numbers, fractions and decimals, order of operations, coordinates, exponents, square roots, ratios, algebraic phrases and more. There will be daily assignments and tests after every chapter. Students will be prepared for algebra I after this course.

**Required Texts (to be purchased by the parents/guardians)**

* Saxon Algebra ½ 3th edition, Saxon, 1565771494
* Saxon Algebra ½ Test Forms 3th edition, Saxon, 1591411734
* A single subject spiral notebook for all math work completed in an orderly manner.

Textbook buying options:

There are many, many website selling Saxon math textbooks and supplements and even used copies too. Find the best deal. You may buy different editions of the Algebra ½ student textbook and Test Forms; however, be warned, in purchasing different editions there may not be a one to one correspondence in lessons and numbered exercises. Also note: there are many supplements for Saxon math, two such supplements are an answer key and solutions manual. The solutions manual will give explanations, the answer key will not. You can browse all of the options on the publisher’s website or on Christianbook.com. You can purchase a 3-in-1 Home Study Kit that contains the student textbook, the Test Forms book, and the Answer Key book. Buy whatever suits your confidence in math and your budget.

**Course Competencies/Learning Objectives**

* To become confident with fractions and decimals!
* To dive deeper into exponents and radicals
* To learn more about the order of operations and algebraic phrases

**Teaching Methods**

In our hour-long session on Wednesdays, I will provide you with an overview of a week’s worth of lessons. Parents are very welcome and encouraged to join our session. I will introduce the concepts as presented in Saxon and also provide you with new ways of looking at the problems. I think students and parents alike will learn something new in this course.

I will help parents form daily homework assignments. Daily assignments will be determined on an individual basis. I will explain which kinds of problems need to be covered, but the number of problems completed will depend on the individual student’s level of understanding. After a minimum problem set, repetition over mastered concepts will not be necessary. This work will be graded by the parents and counted as “work from home assignments”. With your participation and effort, after our course, I’m confident you’ll be ready to tackle the next year of math with bravery.

**Grading/Evaluations**

Every Friday, by 9:00pm regardless of your time zone, I expect parents to email me a sample of student work. I will explain how many problems must be shown and in what format on a weekly basis. This will make up the student’s “homework” grade. I also expect tests to be emailed to me every three weeks, again, I’ll provide more guidance on that when the time comes. These tests will constitute the “tests” grade. Students will also receive a “participation grade” for attending our session and for asking/answering questions.

Faculty assess achievement of the student and assign grades according to a collegial GPA: 4 (A, excellent), 3 (B, above average), 2 (C, average), 1 (D, below average), 0 (F, requirements not met). Every effort will be given by the faculty to help students succeed, but laziness and lack of achievement cannot be ignored. Parent input will be valued in determining the student’s final grade, particularly on the “work from home assignments”. I trust parents to be honest about the level of effort on their students’ part.

Homework - 30%

Attendance and Participation - 20%

Chapter Tests - 25%

Work from home assignments - 25%

**Attendance**

We do not have an official attendance policy, but a lack of attendance could affect participation and final grading. The virtual classrooms are available to any students with internet access. We attempt to record all video calls to make them available for students who are absent. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. We are unable to promise that 100% of all video calls will be recorded and posted online.

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Arrive to class on time
2. Be prepared with your math textbook and spiral notebook
3. Respect your classmates and teacher
4. Give your all, all the time
5. Be responsible for your actions
6. No eating, drinking, cell phones, or extra electronics permitted during class time

**Class Requirements**

You must keep all of your homework problems in your single subject notebook. Label the top of each page with the appropriate lesson, number and write out each question, and then solve it in an orderly manner. More instructions will be given for your sample assignments and tests. If you are absent for our weekly sessions, you are still responsible to turn all assignments and/or tests on time.

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade. Remember: when you cheat or plagiarize, you’re hurting yourself. Even if you pass the class, you will hurt your self-esteem.

**General Information:**

If you are having trouble in this class, let me know immediately. Each math lesson builds on the last, so you must stay on top of it. I am available to help you understand so you can be successful in this class.