

# Pre-Algebra Overview

Mr. Tarter

In Pre-Algebra students can expect to learn something new and have homework most every day. The homework assignments give students practice with important concepts, skills, and algorithms. The homework is intended to present an opportunity for to think further about the Ideas in the lesson. The lesson is the primary unit of instruction, with homework as a vehicle for students to process, practice, connect, and EXTEND the ideas from the lesson. By “EXTEND” I mean integrating prior concepts and applying mathematical thinking to the topic. This can often be challenging but teaches students to become mathematicians and prepares them for upper level math courses.

A typical day in Pre-Algebra will begin with students self-checking their assignment from the previous day. The answers to the odd numbers are provided in the back of the text, so it will be expected that they check them PRIOR to class. I will provide the answers to the other problems, as well as honor any questions students may have before beginning instruction for the next lesson. At the completion of instruction, students MAY still have some time to begin work on the current assignment.

Expect this course to be rigorous in comparison to previous math classes. If a student is struggling it is imperative they seek extra help. There will be not time for the class as a whole to slow down. Among the criteria for student advancement to Algebra next year is to receive an 80% or better year average (4 quarters averaged together) in Pre-Algebra.

## Communication

Without a doubt the best way to contact me is through my e-mail:  
tarter\_mitch@asdk12.org

Having a SmartBoard in the classroom allows me the opportunity to save the day's class notes to the web. This can be helpful if you need a refresher on the content while doing homework, or to keep up with the class lesson when absent. You'll find my website here:

[http://www.asdk12.org/staff/tarter\\_mitch/pages/Site/Welcome.html](http://www.asdk12.org/staff/tarter_mitch/pages/Site/Welcome.html)

Note: There has been trouble getting my desktop computer up and running this year. As a result, I will not be able to update this site until our technology department has remedied the problem.

## Evaluation

Students will be evaluated in the following manner:

- Class Activities and Homework (20% of overall grade)

Our in class investigations are an essential part of the learning process. Students need to be actively engaged in order to make the best of this learning opportunity. Students are expected to be attentive, do their part, ask questions when necessary, follow instructions, and complete the tasks asked of them.

Homework assignments are necessary to create extended thinking, reinforcement, and practice. Students will receive full credit for completed work. There will be occasions where extensive time is spent on a particular homework question without getting an answer. In this situation, students can still get full credit if upon returning to class, they ask for more direction on the problem(s), at which time I will help them grasp the concept. They can then complete the assignment prior to turning it in.

- Tests (50% of overall grade) and Quizzes (30% of overall grade)

There will be a test for each chapter covered in the text. In addition to the test, I will administer quizzes. I provide a safety net for the students by allowing them to improve test and quiz scores up to a maximum score of 80%.

## Absent/Late Work

Students receive 50% credit for assignments turned in one day late. After that time they will not receive credit, unless they were absent. One day of make-up privilege will be granted for each day of absence (maximum of five school days). If notification of a test was given before the absence, the student will need to take the test upon returning to school. It will be very difficult to be successful in Pre-Algebra with extended or frequent absences.

Please detach, sign and return the bottom portion of this page with you're the student's printed name and both signatures.

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I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the Pre-Algebra Overview.  
(parent name)

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<b>Printed</b> Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Parent Signature	Date
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