

## Algebra 1

Mr. Jeff J. Cox, Superior HS, Rm #103

[jcox@superiorusd.org](mailto:jcox@superiorusd.org)

Dear parent/guardian and student,

Please take a moment to review the grading policies that pertain to Algebra 1. At any time, if you have questions or concerns, please send me an email: [jcox@superiorusd.org](mailto:jcox@superiorusd.org)

### Quarter grades

Practice/Assignments	20%
Formative Assessments/Quizzes	30%
Summative Assessments/Tests	30%
Participation	20%

### Overall Grades

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

**Course Information:** It further explores and reviews the concepts introduced in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade mathematics and builds upon them to introduce more advanced concepts. Topics include linear equations, graphing equations, and 2 dimensional shapes. Your student may struggle so it is important that you have open communication with your student about the course. Please direct them to me if they are struggling.

**Prerequisites:** It is assumed students entering this course have received a passing grade for 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics. I am will do everything in my power to help a student in need. However, I am not in the miracle business. If you are in this situation, please make the decision to work extra hard NOW!

**Grading:** Students will primarily be graded on their ability to perform. Students will pass this course only if they can successfully show proficiency on the required standards. It is my belief that ALL students are capable of performing to my expectations in this class. This may require a higher level of work and commitment than your student has previously demonstrated. Again, I will do everything in my power to ensure the success of your student; however, students must do the same.

**Practice/Assignments:** Assignments will be given on most days and will be due the next school day. Missing assignments may be turned in 1 day late to obtain  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit.

**Assessments:** One or more assessments will be given for each chapter. Assessments may be cumulative. They will mainly focus on current material, but may contain some concepts previously learned.

**Retake Policy:** Assessments can be retaken under the following conditions: 1) the student must complete corrections for the original assessment, 2) retake it within 2 weeks of the original assessment date. Students must complete all missing assignments pertaining to the assessment before retaking the test AND come in for tutoring before or after school for extra help.

**Make-up/Absence Policy:** Students are responsible for making up assignments that they miss because of tardies and/or absences. They have the same number of days that they were absent to make up the work.

**Extra Help:** Students are encouraged to come in for extra help before or after school. I am on campus from 7:30 -3:30 every day. Students are encouraged to drop in any time to ask questions. Any changes in these times and days due to meetings or special schedules will be noted on my front white board.

**Classroom Expectations:** School and District rules always apply in this classroom. In addition, I expect students to follow directions quickly and to make smart choices. Truth, trust, respect, active involvement and personal best are valued and expected in my classroom.

Please contact me anytime with your questions and/or concerns.

## **Participation Grade:**

### **What is a Class Participation Grade?**

- Bringing required materials to class
- Frequency and quality of participating with frequency and quality
- Being prepared for classroom discussions due to having done his/her reading/studying
- Making relevant comments based on assigned material
- Improving group dynamic by student's presence
- Being engaged in classroom discussion and able to give cogent answers when called upon
- Not disrupting class and classroom discussion
- Taking complete and neat notes that are required
- Handling comments in class and possible disagreements with the teacher and other students with maturity and sensitivity
- Showing an interest in and respect for others' contributions

### **What Participation IS NOT**

- Raising of the hand in an attempt answer every question whether or not you have anything of quality to offer
- Interjecting in class discussion purely to be "seen" or "counted"
- Talking incessantly, rambling or making tangential comments

### **What takes away from Class Participation?**

- Coming to class ill prepared
- Being disrespectful to students or staff
- Disrupting the learning environment by actions or talking out of turn
- Belittling the opinions of others
- Not following the conversation and thus is not prepared to answer questions when called upon or is off topic
- Discouraging and disrupting others that are attempting to participate
- Not taking notes
- Not having homework complete and thus not able to contribute to class discussion of said homework

## **Expectations:**

### **STUDENTS are expected to:**

- come prepared for class every day
- keep track of their progress by using the Synergy grades website
- begin working on bell work silently as soon as they enter class
- participate in class every day
- do the daily homework which is assigned
- work together cooperatively in groups as assigned
- formulate and ask questions
- have some fun
- expect some difficulty

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### **MR. Cox is expected to:**

- come prepared to teach every day
- help students learn the concepts of Geometry
- be available outside of class for questions
- give advice when asked
- give students timely feedback
- have some fun

- be stumped by a few questions

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**PARENTS are expected to:**

- ask their student how they are performing in Geometry
- keep track of their student's progress by using the Synergy website
- help their student learn the concepts of Geometry
- ensure that their student has opportunity to complete homework
- hold their student responsible for their own learning
- hold their student accountable when they make poor choices concerning their education
- contact Mr. Cox first if there is a problem

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**Rights:**

**STUDENTS have the right to:**

- be treated with respect by everyone in class
- work in a learning environment
- professional instruction from Mr. Cox

**MR. COX has the right to:**

- be treated with respect by all his students
- teach in a learning environment
- enforce all school and classroom rules
- expect the most from his students!

**Daily Routine:**

1. **Class begins:** the minute you step through the door (no later than when the bell rings).
2. **Bell Work:** for everyone to work on when class begins.
3. **Solution to Bell Work:** will be discussed and counts toward your grade.
4. **Grade previous home work:** counts toward your grade
5. **Daily Lesson:** investigations, discussions, and notes.
6. **Time to work:** you will be given time to work on problems in class to assure mastery.
7. **Homework Assignment:** each day you will be given problems to work on.
8. **Class Ends:** when Mr. Cox dismisses the class. NOT when the bell rings and certainly not 3 minutes before the bell rings.

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**Note these special items:**

1. **Homework will be assigned daily:** Expect homework every day. There may be RARE occasions when homework is not assigned, but they are just that, RARE.
  - You must show your work for full credit.
  - You must attempt every problem to receive any credit.

Homework assignments are listed on the Schoolmaster and Teacher website with assigned dates and due dates.

2. **Do not expect to leave class**
  - Please come to class prepared to concentrate on math!
  - Take care of "business" during passing time.
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3. **The door closes when the bell rings.** No pass, you're late. **PERIOD.**
  - I start class when the bell rings. No exceptions. Please arrive early and get working.
  - If you happen to arrive late, you have two options:
    1. Come in and receive a tardy and loss of points.
    2. Go get a pass from whoever delayed you from making it to class on time.

**To the parent/guardian:**

I am truly interested in enlisting you as an educational resource for your child. Please familiarize yourself with the rules, procedures, and expectations that I have included, and encourage your student to understand their importance in creating an appropriate, healthy learning atmosphere both at home and at school.

I am committed to providing my students quality mathematics instruction and also expect that they are committed to making the most of their educational opportunities at Superior High School. Being a high school student is a full-time job which has very demanding requirements. With this in mind I offer the following:

**Suggestions: How you can help in your child's education**

1. **Attend class regularly:** Please try to avoid planning family trips and non-emergency appointments which conflict with school attendance.
2. **Be at school on time:** Your child should eat breakfast and start the day with a positive attitude.
3. **Complete daily assignments on time:** A classroom lesson is most effective when students work on homework problems as soon after the class as possible. Coming to class without completing the assignment will handicap your child. Lack of skill development and insufficient practice make new lessons and assignments more difficult.
4. **Use free time wisely:** A student who has free time should put it to good advantage by reviewing schoolwork.
5. **Keep an organized notebook for each class:** Organized notes lead to organized minds. Notes should include a list of the major daily objectives, definitions, main ideas and formulas presented in class.
6. **Practice good study habits at home:** Possibilities include:
  - establish a set time to study each night
  - spend time reviewing previous work before beginning a new assignment
  - spend time reviewing and reflecting when working on longer assignments
  - collect study materials in one place
  - keep up with daily assignments
  - work in an environment free from distractions (TV, siblings, etc.)
7. **Prepare systematically for tests:** Keeping a list of the important objectives in an organized notebook is an excellent first step (see #5). Begin a review of the objectives and previous assignments a few days before the test. Focus on the objectives which seemed to cause the most difficulty.
8. **Be psychologically ready for tests:** One of the best ways to become emotionally prepared to take a test is to be academically prepared. The majority of test anxiety is caused by inadequate study preparation.
9. **Take advantage of special opportunities at school:** Your child should make use of the school library resources and the individual help offered by staff members.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeff J. Cox  
[jcox@superiorusd.org](mailto:jcox@superiorusd.org)

Mr. Cox's Syllabus: 2019-2020.

Please return this page only. The rest is yours to keep as a reference. Thank you

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I have read and reviewed the grading policies for Mr. Cox's class.

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_