

Algebra I – Course Description and Expectations
Lynbrook High School

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Welcome to Algebra I! Necessary for graduation and imperative for success in subsequent math courses, Algebra I transitions students from arithmetic to symbolic reasoning.

My definition of Algebra 1: **Use math to model the world. Then use inverse operations to get an answer.**

As we work together this year, our **course goals will be to:**

- Develop a thorough understanding and appreciation of the Standards for Algebra I
- Employ techniques that extend mathematical reasoning in many important ways, including justifying steps in an algebraic procedure and checking algebraic arguments for validity.
- Investigate mathematical modeling of real world situations.
- Communicate methods, results, and interpretations using the vocabulary of Algebra in speech, writing, graphics, and presentations.
- Participate actively and work cooperatively with one another in a positive classroom community.
- Perform to the best of your abilities on a daily basis.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

At all times, to contribute positively to the learning environment:

- Respect, listen to, and support each other. Every person's opinion is valued.
- Come to class on time, prepared to participate, learn, and succeed (even on unannounced Assignment Quizzes).
- Abide by the FUHSD Academic Honesty Policy. A copy of the policy is available in the student planner or on the LHS website. Refer to the FUHSD Academic Honesty Policy for various examples and forms of academic dishonesty that should be avoided and consequences for those actions.

PREREQUISITES: number sense, arithmetic skills, and a positive attitude.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook: Algebra 1 Common Core. Pearson, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-318548-5

Class notes and summary guides will prove invaluable in complementing the text.

- **Daily Supplies:** Pencils, highlighters, colored pens/pencils, and paper. A calculator is not necessary.
- **Binder:** It should be organized by day and include the class notes and assignments for the current chapter.
- **Flashcards (optional):** Specify the vocabulary and important concepts that need to be internalized by each student in order to ensure success in the course. The front and back of the flashcards should each be written in a different color. A small number in the front, upper right hand corner indicates which chapter it belongs to.
- **Web resources:** The Resources section of the class website, www.lhs.kennyiams.com will provide important supplemental information. This includes links to: the flashcard list, applets, and supplements for the course. Please Email me links to any other resources that could benefit the class.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day of the deadline! Checking your answers with the answers provided and making necessary corrections in a different color is part of a complete assignment.
- LATE assignments will be accepted the next day only for at most 1/2 credit!, NO credit thereafter.
- If you know you will be absent ahead of time (i.e. for sports, field trip, club day, college visits, etc.), find out IN ADVANCE what you will miss in class by checking with me and asking for any handouts or due dates.

- Most assignments that are collected for grading should be handwritten using pencil. Each assignment must include the Header:

	First Name	Last Name
	Seat Number	
	Iams	4

- If you have a question about how an assignment was graded make an appointment with me within one week of the grade being posted to our web site.
- Your assignments must always be kept in your possession until the chapter test in preparation for possible Assignment Quizzes. **Assignment Quizzes** are intended to ensure that students are completing all assignments, asking appropriate questions, making corrections to problems reviewed in class, and keeping an organized binder. Several problems will be chosen from previous assignments and/or class notes, for example: Homework 1 problem 13 and Warm-Up 3 problem 4. Students must simply open their binder (not their book) and copy down the problem and its solution. Assignment quizzes should be an easy 100% for everyone who completes their work and pays attention.
- Copied assignments will be considered academic honesty violations for all participants involved. The acceptable way to help or receive help from another student on an assignment (including homework and investigations) should involve a discussion where no writing takes place followed by time for all participants to work independently on the assignment. **Being in possession of another student's assignment will be considered a violation of the FUHSD Academic Honesty Policy.**

QUIZZES, INVESTIGATIVE TASKS, PROJECTS AND TESTS

- Quizzes may be small to evaluate understanding of a previous night's assignment or larger to evaluate your progress on a portion of your current work.
- Depending on the scope, investigative tasks and projects may be counted as a quiz or test.
- Students prone to *Sudden Sickness + Miraculous Recovery Syndrome* on a quiz or test day – beware! Students who are not in class, but are healthy enough for sports or extra curricular events that same day – will be referred to administration.

ATTENDANCE and MISSED WORK

- Regular attendance and participation in class are essential for a successful mastery of the sequential concepts that are inherent in the course. One day builds on the next. Please make every attempt to schedule dentist and appointments at times that do not conflict with class.
- In the event that a day is missed, students are expected to check the class website, www.lhs.kennyiams.com, or call a classmate for assignments and class notes. After a student returns from an absence, they have the same number of class meetings as they missed to turn in missed assignments and make-up quizzes and test for full credit. After that time they will receive at most 1/2 credit.
- It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to keep track of your progress/grade on the class website and contact the teacher to schedule any necessary make-up work, such missed as quizzes or exams.
- **Students will NOT have the opportunity to make up work or exams for unexcused absences.**

PARTICIPATION

Simply ask yourself, “Did I contribute positively to the learning environment today?” Each grading period you will start with 7 points out of 10 in participation. Exemplary classroom conduct will earn participation points. Any violation of class expectations will result in deduction of participation points. Each tardy will result in a loss of 0.5 points. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of 2 points. I'm constantly keeping score and will post your grade at the end of each 6-week grading period.

GRADING POLICY

Students earn grades in the following weighted categories. Your grades and assignments will be continuously available for you and your parents to check on the class web site, www.lhs.kennyiams.com

It is your responsibility to stay informed and up to date. Grades are not rounded, an 89.8% = B was earned. Anything subject to academic honesty violations will receive a 0% F.

<u>Grading Categories</u>	
Participation	10%
Assignments	25%
Quizzes	20%
Tests	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>15%</u>
Cumulative Grade	100%

<u>Grading Scale</u>	
100 → 90%	A
<90 → 80%	B
<80 → 70%	C
<70 → 60%	D
<60 → 0%	F

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Iams

The above document may be subject to modification.

After reviewing the course description and expectations with your parent/guardian, please sign below, cut, and return the bottom portion to me. Keep the remaining course description for future reference.



Algebra I – Course Description and Expectations
Lynbrook High School
 Mr. Iams

Student Name _____

Period _____

Parent/Guardian

Please write a few sentences to tell me what you would like me to know about your student.

We have read and understand the Algebra I course description and expectations.
 Grades can be checked on the class website: www.lhs.kennyiams.com

 Student signature

 Parent/ Guardian signature

 Parent/ Guardian e-mail

 Student name (print)

 Parent/Guardian name (print)

 Parent/ Guardian Phone number