

Course Description

College Algebra focuses on strengthening algebraic skills, investigating algebraic functions including linear, quadratic, cubic, polynomial, radical, rational, and absolute value functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, basic trigonometric functions, and inverse relationships. Additional concepts include using technology to aid in solutions (since calculus techniques are not available to us yet), circles, writing functions, advanced mathematical representation and communication, and domain and range. After completing this class, you should be able to engage and solve unfamiliar problems using multiple tools and be a problem solver rather than one who solves problems.

Class Expectations & Philosophy

- ✓ The primary focus of this class is on learning **and** understanding.
- ✓ I do not give grades. You earn grades based on the evidence you provide to me of your understanding.
- ✓ You must have evidence of your attempt to solve a problem before I will assist you.
- ✓ Act responsibly and take responsibility for your actions.
- ✓ Positive attitude contributes significantly towards a productive state of mind. Negativity is not acceptable.

Office Hours

You can see me during office hours for assistance on homework, classwork, or anything else that you may have questions about. I will typically be available before school, at lunch, after school, and during second hour. It is best to make an appointment with me beforehand so that I can ensure that I will be available.

Text & Materials

The following materials should be brought to class **everyday**:

- ✓ *Precalculus* textbook
- ✓ A scientific calculator (I strongly urge you to have your own graphing calculator)
- ✓ A pencil, a graph-paper notebook, and supplementary materials as necessary

Homework Policy

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis with few exceptions. Homework is your opportunity to practice skills and concepts addressed in class with the goal of **developing an understanding of the material, not simply doing the assigned problems**. Your work must be neat, organized, and legible, and **all problems must be attempted for credit, with a written record of the attempt**. You are responsible for making sure that your efforts on your homework translate into developing and understanding correct solution techniques. Homework will be checked in groups on the following day for completion and a completion grade will be assigned. Homework quizzes will be used to evaluate comprehension of the material and will occur on a near-weekly basis.

Attendance & Absence Policy

Absences should be avoided. If you know about an absence in advance, you must complete a prearranged absence form. If you are absent, **it is your responsibility** to speak with with me outside of instructional time and make up missed material. I will make contact with parents or guardians after the 3rd absence, and you may be dropped after the 5th absence, in accordance with school policy.

Tardies are unacceptable. Your first tardy is free, but each subsequent tardy may impact your grade. Attending class everyday and being on-time are essential to your success in this class.

If you know that you will be absent for an exam, **you must notify me prior to the absence** and make arrangements for completing the exam. Failure to do so may result in a score of zero or partial credit for the exam. If you miss an exam and the absence was not known in advance (illness, etc.) then **you or your parents/guardians must contact me via e-mail or phone** on the day of the exam.

Late Work & Make-Up Work Policy

All assignments are due on the date stated in class. Turning assignments in late is **not acceptable** and will earn only partial credit. You have one day for each day absent to make up any missing assignments, quizzes, or exams. For excused absences, any assignments, quizzes, or exams completed within this time frame will still be eligible for full credit. Please be aware that any make-up quizzes or exams may differ from those offered in class but should be comparable in content and rigor.

Personal Items

Any devices such as mp3 players, iPods, video iPods, Discmans, cell phones, personal data assistants, calculator games, or headphones are disruptive and should not be used in class. This policy will be discussed further in class.

Cheating & Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. I will follow the RMHS guidelines for cheating as described in your student handbook. Any assignments, quizzes, or exams on which cheating occurred will earn a score of zero.

Grading Policy

This course will use a **weighted** grade system. The categories and their respective percentages for each grading term are below on the left, and letter grade breakpoints are below on the right. I use plus/minus grading for the quarter grade.

<i>Class Activity</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Letter Grade Breakpoints</i>			
Daily Work & Participation	15%	A- 90.00-91.99%	A 92.00-97.99%	A+ 98.00-100%	
Problem Solving	20%	B- 80.00-81.99%	B 82.00-87.99%	B+ 88.00-89.99%	
Assessments	65%	C- 70.00-71.99%	C 72.00-77.99%	C+ 78.00-79.99%	
		D- 60.00-61.99%	D 62.00-67.99%	D+ 68.00-69.99%	
			F 0.00-59.99%		

To calculate your grade, compute the average for each category and multiply by the category percentage, then sum all of these together. If an assignment has a 'Z' recorded, the score is zero for the missing assignment, but be sure to use the assignment total point value for the points possible calculation for that category.

CU Gold College Credit (MATH1110)

This course is eligible for dual credit (RMHS and University of Colorado Denver). This is a great opportunity that will be discussed further in class. If you elect to take this course for college credit, the deadlines below will apply for registering for the course, and the grading scale below will apply to your University of Colorado Denver grade only. There are no extra assignments or exams for those that choose to earn college credit, however there is a cost of \$75 per credit, which is a total of \$225 for this three credit class.

Deadline

Aug 30, 2010 - Registration opens
Oct 4, 2010 - Last day to register, by 5pm
Oct 8, 2010 - Parent consent forms due
Oct 11, 2010 - Last day to drop with refund
Nov 1, 2010 - Last day to drop without refund
Dec 7, 2010 - Tuition due

Letter Grade Breakpoints

A- 90.00-91.99% A 92.00-97.99% A+ 98.00-100%
B- 80.00-81.99% B 82.00-87.99% B+ 88.00-89.99%
C 70.00-77.99% C+ 78.00-79.99%
D 60.00-69.99%
F 0.00-59.99%

If you want to check your grade in the course, you are welcome to ask me, or you can login to the district online grade viewer with your username and password. The website is <https://gradebook.psdschools.org/Pinnacle/PIV/Logon.aspx>. When checking your grade online, please keep in mind that:

- ✓ grades are weighted by category
- ✓ your grade is only a snapshot of your performance
- ✓ a blank means that the assignment has not yet been entered
- ✓ a score of Z means that the assignment is missing and is currently being scored as a zero
- ✓ a score of X means that the assignment has been excused, so it is not affecting your grade

Finally, keep in mind that your grade **is not based solely on the cumulative percentage in my grade book**. Other aspects of our interaction in the classroom such as attendance, class participation, and your attitude and effort toward the course will be taken into consideration and can positively or negatively impact your grade. Consequently, it is in your interest to always give your best effort, to do thorough work, and to maintain a positive attitude.