

Honors Algebra II  
Course Expectations, Classroom Policies and Grading Policy  
Mrs. Giancioppo ~ Room 421  
2019 – 2020

## Welcome to Honors Algebra II!

### What is this course about?

Functions are one of the fundamental notions of mathematics. This course will explore increasingly complex families of functions from a variety of perspectives (e.g., symbolically and graphically), emphasizing the basic concepts, importance, and representations of functions in “real world” applications. The study of Topics in Honors Algebra II include the linear, absolute value, quadratic, power, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and rational families of functions. This course will rely upon and extend the knowledge and skills obtained in the studies of Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry. Students enrolled in this course will be expected to synthesize the skills they learn from direct teacher instruction and the text and then independently apply them to larger conceptual problems during group work in class and on their own.

### Classroom Policies and Expectations

**Be Polite**

**Be Productive**

**Be Present**

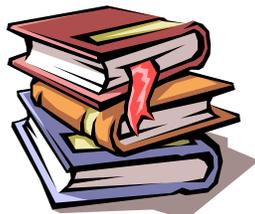
**Be Prompt**

**Be Prepared**

#### Prepared and Productive:

Students are expected to arrive to class each day prepared to participate.

This means you should:

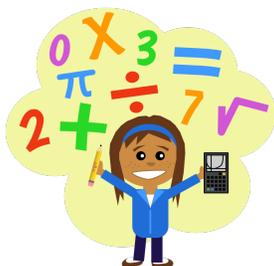


- complete the homework assignment BEFORE the class it is due.
- work cooperatively with others on in-class group assignments.
- take detailed notes on material presented in class.
- come to class with the necessary materials: homework, notebook/binder, pen/pencil, and graphing calculator (TI 84 recommended). Your textbook may remain at home.

Prepare in advance for all assessments. This means you should:

- do your homework on a consistent and thorough basis.
- use class time wisely by actively engaging in class activities/assignments, note taking, and class discussions.
- assemble a small study group.
- come in for help or to check your understanding of the material to be assessed.

Do not fall behind in class. This means you should:



- ask questions to help clarify any areas you find challenging or confusing.
- see me when you begin to find yourself struggling with new material. I am in Math Lab this year; you are welcome to drop in any time you see my name on the schedule! I will post additional help opportunities on the class slides leading up to an assessment. Please email me if these times don't work with your schedule and we will find a time to meet.
- be sure to arrive for extra-help with the materials necessary to make the meeting productive. Have your notebook, recent homework assignments and a list of questions regarding the material with which you are having difficulty.
- ask a classmate for assistance.
- utilize the math lab located in Room 452 during Block 1 and Room 427 during the day. The math lab schedule is posted on Canvas.

## Prompt:



It is expected you will be in class, ON TIME, each time our class meets. I will be keeping track of late arrivals. If you are running late because you are talking to another teacher, please have them write you a pass to class. Remember four tardies is a cut! Please see the ***Student Handbook*** for a complete description of the tardiness and class cut policies.

If absent, please log onto Canvas and access the SmartBoard slides, class handouts and homework assignment for the class you missed. You should use the SmartBoard slides to update your notebook with the warm-ups for the day as well as any class notes and practice problems. **It is your responsibility to make up any missed assignments.** A hard copy of class handouts will be placed in your classroom folder. Please see the ***Student Handbook*** for school policies and procedures regarding student absences.

If you are absent the day an assessment is given, then you are expected to schedule a time to make-up the assessment *immediately* upon your return to school (even if your class does not meet the day you return). You can set up a make up time through your vspraiders email (I will email you the day of an assessment) or in person.

## Park Your Phone!



Technology provides us with some extremely powerful resources, but it can also lead to great distractions. The Wellesley High School ***Student Handbook*** states “In order to prevent disruption in classrooms and to respect the academic environment the use of handheld electronic devices is prohibited during class time without express teacher approval.”

In order to implement the Wellesley High School **handheld electronic devices including cell phones policy**, students will be asked to “park” their cell phones when the cell phones are not being utilized for academic purposes. After you have recorded the homework for the night (if you choose to use your cell phone for this purpose), it is an expectation that you will turn your phone off (or turn it on silent mode) and place it in an assigned numerical “parking lot” space provided by your teacher. The cell phone parking lot is located in a secure and visible location in the classroom. Cell phone retrieval will occur at the end of class or when needed for academic purposes as expressly stated by your teacher.

You are not permitted to have your phone on your person during class unless expressly permitted by your teacher. If your device is not placed in the parking lot and is visible during class time (this includes bathroom and water breaks), then the phone will be confiscated and consequences will follow those stated in the ***Student Handbook***. Please see the ***Student Handbook*** for school policies and procedures electronic devices.

Thank you for respecting the cell phone policy in Room 421. This policy is designed to help you actively engage in class discussions and activities.

## Present ~ Leaving the Classroom:



One person may leave class at a time for a drink of water or a trip to the restroom. Your cell phone will remain in the parking lot during a break. If you know no one else is out of the room, you may excuse yourself. Otherwise, please check in with me. Do not be out of the classroom for any longer than five minutes. You may only take one trip per class. If you leave during a lesson or while notes are being taken, you are responsible for the material you miss. No student may leave the classroom during an assessment. In order to go to the Nurse's Office, you must obtain a pass from me.

## Grading Philosophy and Policy:<sup>1</sup>



The grade a student receives at the end of a term reflects the student's level of understanding of the mathematical concepts covered during the current as well as previous term(s). Students are given an opportunity to formally demonstrate their understanding of material on three term assessments and one end-of-term cumulative assessment.

- A list of learning goals will be provided in advance of each assessment given.
- Students will be permitted to use a reference sheet and/or a calculator on some assessments. The Learning Goals for an assessment will provide information about whether a reference sheet and/or a calculator will be permitted while taking the assessment.
- A reference sheet is limited to both sides of ONE 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of paper. Students are permitted to collaborate with others while creating their reference sheet. If a student collaborates with others on their reference sheet then the student will list the names of all individuals involved with creating the reference sheet. The reference sheet will be handed in with the assessment.
- The assessment schedule for each term will be announced at the start of each new grading term. There are three assessments that lead to the one summative end-of-term cumulative assessment.
- An end-of-term cumulative assessment will be given each term. The purpose of the cumulative assessment is to allow students an opportunity to demonstrate they have mastered and retained previously assessed mathematical concepts.
- All assessments will remain in the classroom. Students will be given time to process feedback on each assessment during class time. If students wish to spend more time reviewing their performance feedback on any given assessment, then they are encouraged to communicate this to their teacher. An appointment will be made to spend more time reflecting on the assessment outside of regular class time.

The end of term grade will be calculated as follows:

Daily Homework	0%
Term Assessments (3 per term)	45%
End-of-Term Cumulative Assessment	30%
The higher of the Term Assessment average or the score on the End-of-Term Cumulative Assessment	25%

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<sup>1</sup> Any change to the term grading policy will be discussed as a class prior to implementing the change(s).

## Homework:

**PRACTICE**  
makes  
**PROGRESS,**  
**NOT**  
**PERFECT.**

Homework is assigned to give students independent practice opportunities. It is expected that students will complete the assigned problems to the best of their ability and include the math process (work) next to each problem. If a student finds that he or she needs practice beyond the problems assigned, then the student should complete additional problems in the areas they find challenging.

- Homework will be assigned a maximum of five times per WHS cycle (for each day our class meets). You should expect each assignment to take about 20 – 40 minutes. Homework assignments will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.
- Solution sets will be provided for most homework assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to log onto Canvas and check the solutions. Identify problem areas by marking them with specific questions. This will help you to be efficient and effective during class discussions.
- Homework effort will be recorded in individual student homework logs. Students will be recording the level of completion, perceived level of difficulty, as well as the time required to complete each homework assignment.
- Students will discuss the homework assignment with a partner or in a small group during the next class. This conversation is meant to encourage student sharing of their problem-solving processes and solutions. Homework discussions involving the entire class will be dedicated to explaining problem-solving processes and presenting solutions to the more rigorous problems.

Although homework completion is not a separate component when calculating a student's term grade, it does serve as an important tool in student preparation for success during in class presentations, assessments and the end-of-term cumulative assessment.

## Academic **INTEGRITY**:

Please read the *Student Handbook* regarding the School's policy on academic integrity. Any incident of cheating will result in a grade of zero and a phone call home. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying assignments, lending assignments to be copied by others, programming graphing calculators with information you are supposed to know without assistance, use of "cheat sheets" during assessments, etc. Repeated incidents of cheating could result in a zero for the course. Don't jeopardize your integrity. Cheating, in any form, is NEVER worth it.

*I look forward to a challenging and enjoyable school year! ~ Mrs. Giancioppo*

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I have read the 2019 – 2020 Course Expectations, Classroom Rules and Grading Policy for Honors Algebra II.

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Student Name (Printed)

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Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature