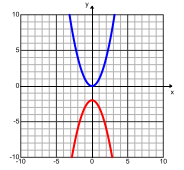# What You Need to Know About Transition to College Algebra

Teacher: Mr. Lukas
Email: LukasAndrew@dist156.org

Welcome to Transition to College Algebra!

Course Overview
Transition to College Algebra is a two-part course that fulfills the Math 095 and Math 099 course requirements at McHenry County College. The first portion of the course will cover operations and applications dealing with integers, linear equations, ratios, proportions, exponents, polynomials, factoring, graphing linear equations, graphing linear inequalities and solving linear systems. The second part of the course will cover problem solving, factoring, rational expressions, graphing, rational exponents, radicals, logarithms and quadratic equations.

**THIS COURSE WILL BE ACCEPTED BY MCC IN PLACE OF MAT 095 AND MAT 099 IF AND ONLY IF THE COMPASS TESTS PLACES THE STUDENT IN MATH 095 OR HIGHER AND EARNS A C OR BETTER BOTH SEMESTERS.

This course comes with strict requirements from MCC. Please read each of the following VERY CAREFULLY and then determine your current standing:

- o You placed into Math 099
  - You must earn a C or better both semesters to not take any further placement tests at MCC.
- o You placed into Math 095
  - You must earn a C or better both semesters to not take any further placement tests at MCC.
  - If you earn below a C at the end of first semester then you must retake the Compass Test at the beginning of second semester.
  - If after taking the Compass Test you place into Math 099 then you must earn a C or better for second semester to not take any further placements tests at MCC.
- o You placed into Math 090
  - You must retake the Compass Test at the end of first quarter.
  - You must earn a C or better in order to not take any further placement tests at MCC.

****ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE FINALS FOR THIS COURSE****

Grading
Grades are available online via Infinite Campus. This is updated at least weekly.
Your grade will be based on the following percentages:

Semester Grade		**Final Semester Grade**	
Tests	75%	Semester	80%
Quizzes	20%	Final Exam	20%
Classwork, Homework and Projects	5%		

Grading Scale
The school uses the following scale to determine semester letter grades:

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% or lower	F

Materials

You will need to bring the following materials to class **everyday:**
1. A Folder
2. TI-83, TI-84 or TI-89 Graphing Calculator
3. Pencil
4. Textbook

You ***must*** have a Texas Instruments graphing calculator for this course. There will be multiple activities throughout the year that require the use of the TI-83, TI-84 or TI-89. Calculators are available for rent for the school year. See the front office for the appropriate paper work.

Classroom Expectations

You will be expected to:
- Always put forth your best effort.
- **RESPECT** yourself, classmates, substitutes and me.
- Bring all of the necessary materials to class **everyday.**
- Complete assignments on time.
- Use class time to engage and participate in class notes, activities and discussions.
- Follow all school rules.

Consequences

Failure to meet the classroom expectations may result in:
- After class/school meeting
- Contact with parents
- Teacher detention
- Conference with parents, student, counselor and myself
- Referral to the Assistant Principals
- Removal from class

Homework Assignments

Homework will only be accepted for full credit the day on which it is due. Each day that your homework assignment is late I will deduct points. Five percent of your grade will be **quality homework completion**.

Quiz/Test Retakes

Quiz retakes will be optional, while test retakes will be **REQUIRED**. The retake process is as follows:
1. You must correct every problem that you missed. These corrections will be done before or after school with me.
1. You must complete ALL of the homework assignments for the given target that you missed.
2. Only after you complete the above requirements will I decide if you are READY for the retake. If I do not agree that you are ready then more supplemental work may be assigned.

Attendance

Daily attendance is very important in math! Missing a day will not directly affect your grade, but since everything we do builds on what we did before, frequent absences will be very detrimental to your understanding. Make every effort to be in class everyday and to make up all make up work in a timely manner. In cases of an extended absence lasting more than one day, be sure to see me so we can work out a timeline to get you caught up on material missed. ***YOU are responsible for completing make-up work in a timely fashion.***

Tardy Policy

The school tardy policy will be followed:

1^s Tardy: Warning

2nd Tardy: 10 min detention with the teacher

3rd Tardy: 15 min detention with the teacher

4th Tardy: Counselor Referral

5th Tardy: AP Referral –Thurs or Sat Referral

6th Tardy: One day ISS

7th Tardy: Two day ISS

Extra Help Opportunities

- Schedule a time to meet with me before or after school.
- Get a pass to come see me during A.I.M. or go to the Math Resource Lab
- 11th Hour Homework Help in the library 3-4:05 with a math teacher Monday-Thursday.
- Online Textbook: www.mhhe.com/messersmith (see me for help with this if you want to know more!)
- Don't wait until it's too late! If you find yourself struggling with a target or a unit, get help right away!
- Feel free to talk to me about other ideas for extra help.

I realize that math can be a difficult subject for any student. However, understanding mathematical concepts is not an impossible task. Just like developing a new skill or training for a sport, math takes patience, perseverance and practice!

Please share this information with your parents/guardians. Then, sign, cut and return the bottom portion of this page as your first homework assignment **due Friday, August 21st**.

I have read and understood the expectations and policies in Mr. Lukas's Need to Know Form. I understand that if I have a question during the school year and can't find the answer in this form, I should contact Mr. Lukas. If you have additional comments that you feel I should know, please write them below.

Student Name & Signature _____ _____

Parent/Guardian Name & Signature _____ _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number _____