

# Course Syllabus for Mr. Taylor's Fall Algebra Course 2015-2016

Cell Phone: 510-501-0379

E-mail: [mwtaylor@seattleschools.org](mailto:mwtaylor@seattleschools.org)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Algebra comes from Arabic "al-jabr" meaning "reunion of broken parts" and is generally defined as the study of mathematical symbols and the rules for manipulating these symbols. Said another way, Algebra takes what we know about numbers and math and puts it into a symbolic language.

The Common Core Standards have focused our year of study on the following areas: Seeing Structure in Expressions, Arithmetic with Polynomials and Rational Functions, Creating Equations, and Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities. These topics explore common ideas that most "educated" people are supposed to know but more importantly create a framework in which we can delve deeply and make sound arguments using data and observation.

Intensified Algebra is a two-period class that combines the best of what we know about how to teach Algebra and the latest brain science. Special online support, classroom resources, and prepared materials make this class challenging and fun.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

In addition to those items listed in the course description, this class seeks to instill the skills necessary to become a superior student, an exemplary team member, and an excellent problem solver. For many students, this class will help build a system of strategies for succeeding in higher level classes. Taking responsibility for learning outside the classroom and performing the preparation necessary to show progress on tests and quizzes are two critical behaviors. It is hoped that the structure of this class, along with your striving to do your best, will result in you being able to display the prescribed content knowledge and obtaining important lifelong learning skills.

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

This class requires a notebook or folder where notes, homework, and classwork are to be stored. You will need paper, pencil, eraser, and pen. A scientific calculator (not graphing) is also required.

## **TEXTBOOK:**

The workbook provided will have the majority of our assignments. It is critical that it is brought to class every day.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES:**

Schoology is a "website" where many teachers will be posting assignments (as I am planning to do). My willingness to post materials here does not remove the student's obligation to write down assignments. PowerSchool is the source for checking grades. I tend to update grades about every other week. I believe the links and instructions below should work:

- Schoology can be found at: <http://districtlms.seattleschools.org/> (first page only put in username, ignore password, second page will request password).
- Powerschool can be found at: <https://ps.seattleschools.org/>

## Discipline Policy

Discipline deals with more than behaving oneself in public. Discipline is about being able to repeat behaviors that ultimately make us better people. Shooting free throws **every** day takes DISCIPLINE. Doing homework **every** day takes DISCIPLINE. Practicing piano **every** day takes DISCIPLINE. Going to work **every** day takes DISCIPLINE. Paying attention in class **every** day takes DISCIPLINE.

Expected behaviors:	Rewards:	Consequences:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate respectful behavior towards yourself and others</li> <li>2. Come prepared to work</li> <li>3. Observe all school rules</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Praise</li> <li>2. Pride</li> <li>3. A fun, working environment</li> <li>4. Daily Participation Points</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Correction/Conference Outside</li> <li>2. Loss of Participation Points</li> <li>3. Call home</li> <li>4. Referral to office</li> </ol>

## Grading Guidelines

School-wide scale: 90+ = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F

**Quizzes/Projects** - Quizzes are generally worth 60 points (3 assignments). Quizzes will be timed, graded for correctness, and you cannot give or receive help on them. The material is generally from the daily warm-ups or concepts that are used on a regular basis. We will attempt to do one project which will be graded like a quiz. Quizzes may be re-taken once within one week (after school).

**Tests/Quarter Final** – Tests are summative and can cover any items to date but will generally involve the most recent material. They cannot be re-taken. Use your classwork, homework, and quizzes as learning opportunities to ensure you get the best possible Test grade.

**Class Assignments**– depending on the difficulty of the activity this may be graded or it may simply be part of your participation grade. Many times these will be group assignments.

**Homework** – Ideally there will be some type of homework almost every day. **Homework must be ready when the bell rings.** It will be given a 0, 1, or 2 based on completion and effort. Homework is an opportunity to practice what was learned AND to make note of problems or directions that are confusing.

**Class Participation** – For doing what you should be doing. In class, **on time**, prepared, listening, participating in a positive way. This also earns 3 points daily. For extended absences, arrangements can be made to recover these points.

Outline of grading	Points*	Approximate Number per Quarter	Total	Percent of Grade
Quarter Final	300	1	100	6%
Tests	300	2	600	35%
Quizzes/Projects	60	9	540	31%
Class Assignments	10	27	270	16%
Participation Points	3	45	135	8%
Homework Points	2	36	72	4%
Grand Total			1717	

\* For Quizzes and Tests, I usually grade out of 20 and 100 to make it easy but then triple these points in order to weight the score appropriately

## PARENTAL REVIEW CONFIRMATION

Dear Parent, put your child in charge of their education! Have your child re-read the Syllabus on their own and pick four things about this class to share with you. **Once they have discussed it with you, both of you should sign this to acknowledge having received and discussed it.** If you have any questions, write them on the back of this paper OR e-mail me at [mwtaylor@seattleschools.org](mailto:mwtaylor@seattleschools.org)

Teacher: TAYLOR

Course: Geometry / Algebra

Student (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Student (signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Information:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (NEATLY PLEASE!): \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have the ability to access the internet at home (or nearby)? Yes/No  
(please return to teacher)

## PARENTAL REVIEW CONFIRMATION

Dear Parent, put your child in charge of their education! Have your child re-read the Syllabus on their own and pick four things about this class to share with you. **Once they have discussed it with you, both of you should sign this to acknowledge having received and discussed it.** If you have any questions, write them on the back of this paper OR e-mail me at [mwtaylor@seattleschools.org](mailto:mwtaylor@seattleschools.org)

Teacher: TAYLOR

Course: Geometry / Algebra

Student (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Student (signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Information:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (NEATLY PLEASE!): \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have the ability to access the internet at home (or nearby)? Yes/No  
(please return to teacher)