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**MY TEACHING PHILOSOPHY & GOALS:**

I will teach my students to appreciate and utilize the analytic side of their brains as well as the artistic and creative side. By the end of the year, I want my students to confidently apply their math skills and knowledge to any problem. Ultimately, my students will always think critically and analytically about any problem presented to them in order to reach logical conclusions, both in a mathematical setting and in life. This is a college preparatory school and course; my goal is to prepare for my students for the rigor and complexity they will face in college.

**CLASS RULES & EXPECTATIONS:**

There's really only one rule in my classroom: **BE RESPECTFUL**. I expect students to follow all school and district rules, but mostly it just comes down to treating each other, ourselves, and our school with respect. This means coming to class prepared, ready to focus and ready to work, out of respect for the teacher, peers, and self. I will allow cell phones/technology in class, so long as they do not become a distraction. As soon as something becomes a hindrance to learning for **any** student, I will issue one warning, then if the disturbance continues, the student will have to put the distraction away. If there is an issue a third time, I will take away the distraction either until the end of class or until the end of the day, depending on the situation. If a pattern arises over the semester, I reserve the right to ban the distraction from the classroom and/or take it away until the parent/guardian comes to get it. Please see the PAPA Student Handbook or visit [paparts.org](http://paparts.org) for a full list and description of all school rules and policies. Please take special note of the PAPA Attendance Policy; consistent attendance is not optional.

**MY SCHEDULE:****1ST: ALGEBRA II****2ND: ALGEBRA II****3RD: 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH****4TH: CALCULUS**

&lt; MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH &gt;

**5TH: 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH****6TH: PREP PERIOD****7TH: ALGEBRA II****COURSE GRADES:**

Each quarter, students' grades will be calculated using the following scale:

<b>TESTS:</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>HOMEWORK:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>10%</b>

**SEMESTER GRADES:**

Each semester, overall grades will be calculated using the following scale:

<b>1ST QUARTER:</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>2ND QUARTER:</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM:</b>	<b>20%</b>

All students are required to take a comprehensive final exam at the end of each semester. The fall exam will include material learned over the course of the first semester.

The spring semester final exam is cumulative over the whole year and will also be considered the End of Course Exam.

## CLASS STRUCTURE:

Throughout the year, the class will implement a mix of individual, paired, and group work. In line with PAPA's vision and mission, this course will emphasize college preparedness and will be modeled after a college level course, so I will lecture/teach the full hour of class 2-3 times per week with work days in between. My students will use these work days as to do their homework, work together in study groups, and to get help from me. I always give students time during class to work so they have access to me to ask any questions and get help, and all assignments are due two days after they are assigned. If students do not use this time to work, I will revoke it and move on to the next section.

## HOMEWORK:

Homework will be assigned at least 2-3 times per week. Homework is due **three** (school) days after it is assigned, unless otherwise stated. For example, if I assign homework on a Friday, it is due the following Tuesday. I allot two full days to complete homework so that students, after being introduced to new material, then have the opportunity to try the assignment, ask questions the next day, and then attempt it again. Especially when dealing with higher level mathematics, it's important that the brain be allowed to rest after attempting to learn new material, so I knowingly give students an extra day to "sleep on it" so they are better able to understand these difficult mathematical concepts and internalize them after their initial tries. I **strongly encourage** students to at least start their homework assignments the day they are assigned so that they don't waste the opportunity to ask for help. Homework is for students to practice skills, so I will only assign it when it's going to be helpful and meaningful. I believe that homework should help students learn, not just be a chore.

### LATE HOMEWORK:

I do accept late homework. All assignments submitted after the due date will automatically lose 20% of the credit, so long as it is in **BEFORE** the test over that material. I will still accept homework after the test has been administered, but it will only receive 50% of the credit. I cannot accept late work once the quarter ends.

## CORRECTIONS:

Students will always have the opportunity to correct their work. Especially in mathematics, it is vital to identify and fix mistakes. Nobody ever gets it right the first time, every time. On all assignments, students will receive half the credit they missed back. For example, if a student scored a 50% on an assignment, they can submit corrections to get a final score of 75% that replaces their initial grade. **Corrections are required on all assessments**, regardless of the initial score (unless it was 100%, of course). We must all learn from our mistakes!

## COURSE MAP:

Along with this syllabus you will find a course map for the year. This schedule denotes the order of topics taught with a (relatively tentative) timeline of when we will cover each topic. I have designed this syllabus and course map to reflect the experience of a college level mathematics course, so all assignments are listed for the entire year. Please note this schedule is subject to change as the year progresses. I reserve the right to edit any assignment dates, due dates, and even the assignments themselves as I deem appropriate. I will inform you as the changes are made via email as well as in class, and I will update the Course Map as those changes are made, likely in a Google Spreadsheet that I will share with all students and parents/guardians to view anytime throughout the year. **Please check your emails at least weekly for updates on this course.** Parents/guardians, please also provide me with your preferred email address; students will receive all emails to their paparts.net accounts.

