

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Honors Algebra I

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Course Overview:

This course is the second year of a four-year college preparatory sequence in mathematics, with particular emphasis on applications of algebra to real-life situations. This course will be following the Algebra I Curriculum from the State of Connecticut's Common Core State Standards. Students will be actively involved in the learning process through a hands-on, investigation approach.

Overall Course Objectives:

- Students will analyze patterns and write recursive and explicit algebraic rules to extend patterns and make predictions.
- Students will understand that in order to obtain a solution to an equation, no matter how complex, it always involves the process of undoing the operations
- Students will understand that functions are a mathematical way to describe relationships between two quantities that vary
- Students will understand that linear functions are characterized by a constant average rate of change
- Students will understand the difference between correlation and causation
- Students will use scatter plots and trend lines to make predictions
- Students will use systems of equations as an algebraic way to compare two equations that model a situation and find the breakeven point or choose the most efficient or economical plan
- Students will understand the differences between linear and exponential models
- Students will understand when to use quadratic functions to model data
- Students will understand key points of a parabola (vertex, maximum, minimum, zeroes).

Standards for Mathematical Practice:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reason.

Wheeler High School Academic Expectations:

- *Analysis (assessed in this course)*
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Literacy

Material Required

Students are required to have a binder or a section of a binder for this class. Students should keep all assignments to help prepare for the midterm and final exam. Students also need pencils. No pens in math!

Class/ Behavior Expectations

- Be respectful, responsible, honest, and safe to self, others, and all property.
- Be on time and prepared for class.
- Be active and involved in learning.
- All school rules and policies as stated in the handbook apply.

- Cell phones
 - Cell phones should not be on a student's desk unless directed to be used by a teacher for class purposes.
 - Students should not be talking on cell phones during class or during hallway passing time. School phones are available in our main office if a student needs to call home at any time and we encourage this practice if needed.
 - Students should not use their cell phones to ask to be dismissed if they are not feeling good. Instead, students should be evaluated by our school nurse and our school nurse will call home to let a parent or guardian know they need to be picked up.
 - Cell phones should not be used to record or photograph students or teachers without their permission. If this occurs, students will be disciplined appropriately and will automatically lose their privilege of carrying a cell phone during the school day for the remainder of that school year.
 - Cell phones are NOT permitted in bathrooms or locker rooms under any circumstances. A student caught with a cell phone in any of these areas will receive appropriate disciplinary action including a possible in-school suspension.
 - Cell phones are not allowed in classrooms during mid-term or final exams and they cannot be used for their calculator during such assessments.
- Hats
 - Hats/hoodies may be worn in the hallways and cafeteria only.
 - Students must remove them upon entering classrooms or the library.

Attendance Policy (BOE Policy #5113) – as stated in handbook:

The North Stonington Public Schools believes that regular school attendance is essential for an effective and productive learning experience. The sequential presentation of school learning requires a continuity of instruction. The maximum benefits for each individual child can be achieved only from participation and interaction in daily activity. In addition to instruction, other learning processes take place each day that are vital to a student's overall emotional and social growth. Time lost in school is irretrievable in terms of instructional opportunity and social interaction.

The primary responsibility for adherence to regular attendance rests with the student's parents/guardians and the individual student. The Connecticut General Statutes requires students over five and under eighteen years of age to attend school on a regular basis. Appropriate legal action will be taken against parents/guardians whose children fail to abide by the Connecticut Compulsory Attendance Law.

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at their school, or an activity sponsored by the school (i.e., field trip), for at least half of the scheduled school day. Any student in school for less than half of the scheduled school day will be considered absent.

A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion will be considered absent.

Excused Absence

The Board believes a student should not be absent from school without the parents' knowledge and consent, therefore verification of an absence should be in writing by a parent or guardian. The first nine (9) absences will be considered excused if a parent approves the absence and if it is properly documented with a signed note from a parent or a notation is made in the student's attendance record by a school official who received either a verbal or electronic communication from the parent. Family vacations are discouraged during the school year.

For the tenth (10) absence and all absences thereafter, absences will be considered excused for the following reasons:

- a. Student Illness (verified by a medical professional);
- b. Student observance of a religious holiday;
- c. Death in a student's family or emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
- d. Mandated court appearance e. Extraordinary educational opportunities (i.e., college visits) pre-approved by district administrators and in accordance with SDE guidelines.

There shall be no penalty for an excused absence, however, a phone call from a parent does not necessarily constitute an excused absence. Students are encouraged to bring notes from their parent/guardian or physician to the Main Office on the day of return to school. These notes must specify the reason(s) for the absence and must conform to the Board of Education Policy # 5113. Excused absences will be listed on the morning bulletin of the day the note is received and marked in PowerSchool, and students will be allowed to make up all work missed. When a student is absent for extended

periods of time--more than three days-- parents may obtain assignments from the teachers through the counseling office. Failure to make up assignments may result in a grade of zero for each missing assignment. A student may expect to have one day for each day of absence in order to make up missed work. If a student is absent from school, he/she may not be on school grounds. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the administration.

Unexcused Absence:

An unexcused absence occurs when a student is out of school beyond the first nine (9) absences, parent documentation is not provided for the first nine (9) absences and the absences does not meet one of the excused absence reasons listed above. For every unexcused absence, the student will not be allowed to make up or receive credit for work missed.

Protocol:

When a student reaches ten absences the attendance board at Wheeler will review their days absent in order to determine a plan of action to encourage success for the remainder of the year.

Tardy to Class:

If a student is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for class, other than because of a school-sanctioned event, he or she will be considered absent from class.

Limit on Total Number of Absences (High School Only):

No student will receive course credit for a full year course after having been absent from that course for more than twenty (20) class periods (excused or unexcused) during the school year for reasons other than school sponsored activities (i.e. field trips). The total number of absences will be pro-rated for less than full year courses and for courses which meet other than five times per week.

Grading Policy:

Total Points System

Tests:	100 points
Performance Tasks:	25-50 points
Quizzes:	50 points
Homework:	4 or 10 points each assignment
Quick Checks:	10-30 points
Projects:	25-100 points
Warm-ups/Exit Slips:	5-20 points

Semester Grade: 40% of each quarter, 20% of semester exam

Homework will be given often in this class. The assignment will either be checked and graded for completion or collected and graded for accuracy. There will also be graded homework assignments that will be collected and graded.

Final Assessment Policy

For one-credit, full-year courses, examinations are given at the conclusion of each semester—one at the midpoint and one at the end of the school year. For half-credit courses, a final will be given at the end of the semester. All examinations, except in selected classes, are one and one-half hours in length. All students must arrive on time and remain in class for the full duration of the exam period. Students taking the AP test will not be required to sit for a final exam. Seniors are exempt from taking a final exam with a 90% or higher in that class. Normally, no excuse for missing an exam other than illness will be accepted. The Principal must give such permission.

Academic Integrity Statement

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests

- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension

Make Up work:

Students are responsible for all material covered and assignments during an excused absence. Work should be completed and turned in the next day. In cases of lengthy excused absences, a make-up plan will be devised. Students are encouraged to see me during Xblock for missed information and assignments.

Teacher Availability for Extra help

Seek help immediately. I will be available for students whenever possible during Xblock for extra help. Students need to make arrangements to see me for extra help in advance.

Topics Covered:

- Arithmetic and Geometric Patterns
- Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Functions
- Linear Functions
- Scatter Plots and Trend Lines
- Systems of Equations
- Exponential Functions
- Quadratic Functions and Equations