

# Course Syllabus: Pre-Algebra

## Contact Information:

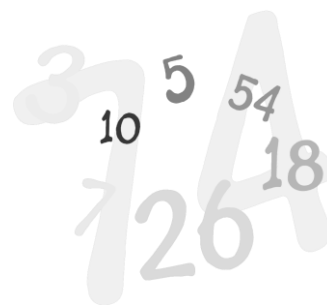
Miss Arianna Gouzouasis

Email: agouzouasis@basd.net

Phone: 814-355-4833 ext 8211

## Planning Period: 3

Room 211



## Introduction:

Welcome to a new school year at Bellefonte Area High School! I hope that you had an eventful, restful summer. As we begin a new school year, I am hopeful that you are prepared for a year of learning about the wonders of mathematics and about how it applies to your everyday life. To make this school year run smoothly, I have compiled the following expectations and guidelines to help you better learn and succeed in math class this year. I have very high expectations for you in this class. Be prepared to work hard and be challenged, but also know that I will do all that I can to help you succeed in this course.

## Course Materials:

The following represent materials that will be required for class everyday:

1. Course Packets - provided
2. Three-Ring Binder – can be provided if needed
3. Loose-leaf Paper – can be provided if needed
4. Sharpened pencil and eraser
5. Graphing calculator - provided for in-class use only
  - Each student is assigned a calculator to use during class. It must be returned at the end of each class period. Any damage will be the responsibility of the student. It is **highly** recommended each student purchase a graphing calculator for their own personal use.

## Course Big Ideas:

1. Integers
2. The Tools of Algebra
3. Expressions and Equations
4. Algebra and Rational Numbers
5. Factors and Fractions

## Expectations:

Beyond the rules and expectations that you have as a member of BAHS, I have the following expectations for you in my class this year:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. No swearing, teasing, or bullying.
3. Come to class prepared with your required classroom materials and assignments.
4. Treat your teacher, peers, and materials in the classroom with respect.

## Consequences:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Meeting with me after class.
3. If behavior continues, parents/guardians will be contacted via call or email.

4. Serious/ reoccurring problems- student referral and student sent to office immediately.

### **Cell Phone Policy:**

At first sight of a cell phone, you will be asked to put it away. This means they are not to be on desks or resting on your lap. Away means away! If seen again during class, participation points will be deducted and an administrator will be made aware. According to rules stated in the BAHS Student Handbook, violation of the electronic device policy will result in confiscation of the device, which will be held in the student office and returned to only a parent or guardian.

### **Grading Policy: Complete Points System**

- **Homework**

See Homework Policy (below).

- **Quizzes**

Quizzes will cover the types of problems encountered in class and the homework. Quizzes will usually only cover material learned recently in class.

- **Tests**

Tests will cover the types of problems encountered in class, in the homework, and in any other assignments completed in or out of class. Tests are more comprehensive than quizzes, and will require extra preparation before taking the test.

*- It has been said that it is impossible to study for a math test. Do not believe this! To study for a math test, redo examples from class and homework problems and then study your notes.*

- **Participation**

This applies to anything during class time. Participation in the classroom means active participation! You can earn up to 20 points each marking period for participation. Points are collected throughout the quarter and those points can be seen on the grid behind my desk. Disrupting class is not the type of participation I encourage and doing so will result in a loss of participation points. Arriving late or unprepared makes you an ineffective participator, and thus will cost you participation points, as well.

### **Homework Policy:**

In order to become strong in mathematics, practice is absolutely necessary. Practice will take place in the form of classwork and nightly homework. The purpose of homework is to reinforce and extend classroom learning, to review previously learned concepts, and to increase the speed by which mathematical skills are performed. I hope that you will find that homework can be used as a valuable learning tool and not merely a way to earn points.

- **How I assign homework:** I will post the homework on the assignment board at the beginning of every class. All last-minute changes will be updated on the assignment board as changes are made. I also post homework assignments on the course Google Classroom site.

- **Late Policy:** You are to complete homework assignments before the beginning of class on the date that it is due. No homework will be accepted after the date it is due.

- **How I assess homework:** Homework is assessed by *completion*, not accuracy. I will grade every nightly homework assignment for completion out of two points. An assignment is considered complete if all problems are finished with all work shown. If you cannot figure out how to solve a problem, you must put forth your best effort *on paper*, or explain what about the problem you do

not understand. Failure to have the homework available at the time it is checked during class will result in a zero grade for that assignment.

- **Parent/Guardian Involvement:** Parents and guardians have the most educational influence on students. I encourage parents and guardians to contact me if they have any concerns about their student’s status or progress in my class. I do not design homework assignments to require the assistance of parents or guardians, so nothing I assign should be outside of the student’s ability.

- **Reviewing Homework:** Because you dedicate so much time and effort towards completing homework assignments, I will dedicate five minutes at the beginning of every class to review homework questions. Students may also make arrangements outside of class time if there are homework questions that require more extensive explanation.

**Make-Up Work:**

You are responsible for any work that you miss due to absence. You must get the notes from a peer in the class and turn in missing homework on time. As per school policy, students have two days to complete an assignment for each day they are absent. Assignments received after this time period will receive a zero grade. If you are absent the day of a test/quiz, expect to take the test/quiz within the two-days-per-day-absent time period. It is expected that the student will take the assessment during a study hall. If a student does not have a study hall, other arrangements will be made. Failure to make arrangements or to take the test/quiz during the agreed-upon time will result in a zero grade for the test/quiz. Special accommodations will be made for extended absences.

**Tutoring:**

There are tutoring services available at BAHS, both during and outside of school hours with Mrs. Baughman (room 123). If you feel you are struggling and need extra help, speak with me or reach out to Mrs. Baughman yourself. Her email is [jbaughman@basd.net](mailto:jbaughman@basd.net). Getting tutoring in the last marking period will not do you much good, so take action early on if you feel you could use some extra help.

**Extra Credit:**

There will be minimal extra credit opportunities provided in this course. The best way to earn extra credit is to show me that you are willing to put in the extra effort. When you ask questions in class and come in for extra assistance, this shows you are willing to work hard for your grade! It will **not** go unnoticed! You have many chances to earn your grade in this course. Make every day count!

**Conclusion:**

I look forward to teaching you this year and getting to know you in the process! Your success in this class is very important to me! If you have any questions or concerns, please see me in person.

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I have read and understand the course policies outlined in the course syllabus. Please cut and return to Miss Gouzouasis by Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_