

Got Math?

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Algebra 2 Prep Class

This is the fifth year I have been teaching the Algebra 2 Prep Class during the summer prior to entering Algebra 2. I prefer to take 2-4 students in a group, of comparable skill level (either all CP students or all Honors students). The group meets in my home for 5 sessions, each lasting 1 to 1 1/2 hours depending on how quickly they pick things up. Students are asked to complete a pre-assessment ahead of the first class so I can get an idea of their weaknesses, if there are any.

Additionally, I assign approximately one hour of homework after each class, which is due the next scheduled meeting time. If students do not demonstrate sincere effort on the homework, I will contact the student's parent to make them aware of the situation.

This class will benefit any student taking Algebra 2, particularly due to the "gap year" most students have between Algebra 1 and 2. The class is especially helpful to students who only had 1 year of Algebra 1 while in middle school or high school. Typically, Algebra 1 covers "linear algebra" and only touches on non-linear concepts towards the end of the school year, when many students aren't particularly adept at absorbing new material. However, Algebra 2 ramps up quickly and the instructors I am familiar with rightfully assume students learned, understood, and retained all non-linear concepts taught in Algebra 1. Therefore, many students are overwhelmed early in the school year by Algebra 2 if they did not thoroughly retain what was taught at the end of their Algebra 1 class, which they likely took two years earlier.

Although I strive to keep a flexible schedule, this class works best if we meet five consecutive days during one week. Classes are most beneficial if scheduled in August, when the students are beginning to think about returning to school. The biggest challenge is coordinating everyone's schedules, especially if they are doing a fall sport and will be practicing during those weeks. It is very important that the students attend every session. If they miss one or only able to attend part of a class, they are generally lost after that and have difficulty catching up with the rest of the group.

The total cost for 5 sessions is \$1,200, which is split equally by the group members. I plan to cover most of Chapters 1 through 3 of the book they have been using for Algebra 2 Honors in the Greenville County School District, and continuously review the methodologies of solving and interpreting quadratic functions (this is the heart and soul of the course throughout the year). I will provide printed material to help students throughout the summer prep class.

I ask that parents form their group and preferred meeting time(s) prior to contacting me to schedule the classes. ***This year, I will be scheduling all summer courses in the two weeks preceding the start of school once that start date is set by the school district.*** Once a group is formed, the classes can be scheduled and are reserved once all payments are received (payments are nonrefundable). Payments should be mailed to me at 221 Cleveland Street, Greenville SC, 29601. Additionally, the following information should be included with payments:

- Student's Final Grade in Algebra 1 and school attended
- Student's EOC Exam Grade in Algebra 1 (this would be listed on their final report card if they took Alg. 1 in the Greenville County public school system)
- Number of years they took Algebra 1
- Parent's name/contact information (phone and email)
- Student's name/contact information (phone and email)