
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO MR. HOLCOMB

To the **STUDENT**:

NAME (please print): _____ PERIOD: _____

Please confirm that you have read and understand all these documents:

- Syllabus
- Classroom Procedures
- Homework Policy
- Mr. Holcomb's Website

Signature _____ Date: _____

To the **PARENT** or **GUARDIAN**

Please confirm that you have read and understand all these documents:

- Syllabus
- Classroom Procedures
- Homework Policy
- Mr. Holcomb's Website

NAME (please print): _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone number during school: _____

Phone number after school: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Does your student have any allergies or accommodations that you are aware of (see below)?

Allergies: _____

IEP 504 Plan

Anything I should know:

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Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Holcomb
 jholcomb@fusdk12.net
 (510) 796-1776 X501
 The best way to reach me is through email.

Website: www.mrholcomb.com

Textbook: Big Ideas Math Algebra 2: Ron Larson and Laurie Boswell

Be Prepared: You will need a scientific calculator (I recommend the Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator: \$88 at Walmart. If you need assistance acquiring this calculator, please speak with Mr. Holcomb, your counselor, or your Assistant Principal.), sharpened pencils, binder, binder paper, and graph paper. In place of a wood pencil I recommend a 0.9 mm mechanical pencil.

Course Description: 10 credits /year Prerequisites: C- or better in both semesters of CC Geometry. Algebra II will focus on four critical areas: (1) relate arithmetic of polynomials and rational expressions to arithmetic of rational numbers; (2) expand understandings of functions and graphing; (3) synthesize and generalize functions and extend understanding of linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their respective inverse functions; and (4) relate data display and summary statistics to probability and explore a variety of data collection methods

		Quarter	Semester
Grading:	Tests:	80%	70%
	Homework and Classwork:	15%	15%
	Personal Points	5%	5%
	Final Exam:	No Final	10%

Grading scale:

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D	60-69%
A	93-96%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	F	<60%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%		

NOTE: D's are not recognized at the UC and CSU systems. If you are working below the C level after the 1st exam, please come and see me. I will change a students' first semester grade (F to a D) or (D to C-) if they show mastery of the material the second semester. Students can do this by obtaining an 85% or higher at the end of the second semester.

Keeping up: Lessons can be as short as one day, so if you miss a class it will be very difficult to catch up. Here are some suggestions to help you with your learning:

1. If you need help, come after school.
2. Complete all your homework and classwork assignments.
3. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Classroom Procedures

Entering the classroom: Upon entering the classroom go directly to your seat and start the opener or warm-up activity. Please keep your back pack on the floor. If I am doing the second part of a lesson then I will begin as soon as the bell rings. Be ready when I begin!

Class dismissal: The school bell is for the teacher's use to monitor the progression of the period; it is not a timing device for students to anticipate their departure from the class. You are expected to stay in your seat until the teacher announces that class is over and you can leave. Class will not be dismissed until all material is cleaned from the floor.

Missed Work due to an absence: If you miss instruction days it is **your** responsibility to get the homework and find out what you missed. You will be allowed to make up homework and tests with an excused absence. If you know in advance that you are going to be absent (i.e. field trip, family business, athletic contest, doctor's appointment, etc.), you may ask me for work that you'll miss.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. I will follow the school guidelines for this offence. Please see the Policy section of the AHS website.

Bathroom Policy:

Students must sign in and out to use the restroom. Students may not use the restroom in the first and last ten minutes of class.

Classroom expectations:

- Please bring all required materials to class every day. They will not be provided.
- Please be prepared to start work when the bell rings, otherwise you will be considered tardy.

Classwork:

Students will receive 50 points a week for classwork:

10 points a day plus 20 points on block day.

In order for students to keep points they must:

- Take notes, participate, and complete scheduled classwork (which may include doing some of your homework in class).
- Be respectful:

The following will be considered non-respectful behavior, and includes, but is not limited to: Loud or disruptive behavior, use of profanity, using any other electronic devices except for calculators. Disrespectful behavior will also result in loss of personal points and possible an administration referral.

Personal Behavior:

You will be given a 100 personal points at the beginning of year. You will be able to maintain your 100 points of "Personal Points" unless the following rules are violated. (10 points will be deducted for each offense. If you drop below 50 points a parent conference will be requested).

- Please be **respectful** of all people, as well as their property, at all times. Think of the Golden Rule: Treat others as you wish to be treated.
- No **cell phones** or other electronic devices.
- No **eating, drinking**, or chewing gum is allowed in the classroom.
- Appropriate **language** shall be used in this class.
- **Disruption:** I do not allow students to impede other classmates from succeeding. This is a college prep course and requires concentration and effort to succeed.

Homework Policy

Why I Assign Homework: I give homework because it is useful in reinforcing what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility and helps develop positive study habits.

When I Assign homework: Most nights. Refer to my website for homework assignments and due dates.

Student's Homework Responsibilities: I expect students to do their best job on their homework and follow the "Homework Guidelines for Mathematics" (see next page). All assignments must be turned in on time.

Internet: I will post class notes and homework assignments on my website

<http://www.mrholtcomb.com>

To the PARENT or GUARDIAN:

Parents (guardians) play an important role in making homework a positive experience. I can't stress strongly enough the importance of monitoring this activity. Therefore, I ask that you make homework a top priority, provide necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment, set a daily homework time, and limit the distractions that deter from your child performing his or her best. You can positively influence your child's performance by providing constructive criticism and praise as appropriate. Please contact me if you notice any problems or have any questions.

Please read and discuss this homework policy with your child.

Homework Guidelines for Mathematics

Mathematics is a language, and as such it has standards of writing which should be observed. In a writing class, one must respect the rules of grammar and punctuation, one must write in organized paragraphs built with complete sentences, and the final draft must be a neat paper with a title. Similarly, there are certain standards for mathematics.

Write your **name** and **period** clearly at the top of at least the first page, along with the page number(s) and problems assigned.

Use **standard-sized paper** (8.5" x 11"), with no "fringe" running down the side as a result of the paper's having been torn out of a spiral notebook.

Staple your pages together. Do not fold, tear, or otherwise "dog-ear" the pages.

Clearly indicate **the numbers for the problems** you are doing. If you accidentally do a problem out of order, or separate part of the problem from the rest, then include a note to the grader, referring the grader to the missed problem or work. 

Write out the problems (except in the case of word problems, which may be too long).

Do your work in **pencil**, with mistakes cleanly erased, not crossed or scratched out.

Write legibly (suitably large and suitably dark); if the grader can't read your answer, it's wrong.

Write neatly across the page, with each succeeding problem below the preceding one, not off to the right. Do not work in multiple columns down the page (like a newspaper); your page should contain only one column.

Keep work within the margins. If you run out of room at the end of a problem, continue onto the next page; do not try to squeeze lines together at the bottom of the sheet. Do not lap over the margins on the left or right; do not wrap writing around the notebook holes.

Do not squeeze the problems together, with one problem running into the next. Use sufficient space for each problem, with at least one blank line between one problem and the next.

Do **"scratch work," but do it on scratch paper**; hand in only the "final draft." Show your steps, but any work that is scribbled in the margins belongs on scratch paper, not on your homework.

Show your work. This means showing your steps, not just copying the question from the assignment, and then the answer from the back of the book. Show everything in between the question and the answer. Use complete English sentences if the meaning of the mathematical sentences is not otherwise clear. For your work to be complete, you need to **explain your reasoning** and make your computations clear.

For graphs, use **graph paper** and clearly label the axes, the scale, and the points of interest. Use a **consistent scale** on the axes, and do a T-chart, unless instructed otherwise. Also, make your graph large enough to be clear. If you can fit more than three or four graphs on one side of a sheet of paper, then you're drawing them too small.

Do not invent your own **notation and abbreviations**, and then expect the grader to figure out what you meant.

Do not do magic. Plus/minus signs, and denominators should not disappear in the middle of your calculations, only to mysteriously reappear at the end. Each step should be complete.

If the problem is of the "Explain" or "Write in your own words", then write the answer in **your** words.

Remember to **put your final answer at the end** of your work, and mark it clearly by, for example, underlining it. Label your answer appropriately; if the question asks for measured units, make sure to put appropriate units on the answer. **If the question is a word problem, the answer should be in words.**

In general, write your homework as though you're trying to convince someone that you know what you're talking about.

Based on "Homework Guidelines"
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Mr. Holcomb's Website

I am happy to announce that we now have a quick and easy way for you to keep track of class test scheduling, homework assignments, notes, handouts, and grades: My class website is exclusively for students in our class and their parents.

Here's how to access the website:

www.mrholcomb.com

Please try to visit this site regularly.