VALLEY VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
"STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE" AND "DO THE RIGHT THING"
"This is Our Story - 50th Anniversary" 2015-2016

COURSE TITLE:
Algebra I

TEACHER:
Valerie Yant

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CLASS WEBPAGE:
http://vvms-simi-ca.schoolloop.com/Algebra1

I. COURSE STANDARDS/OBJECTIVES
This course is designed to develop mathematically empowered students who confidently understand, implement, and apply the knowledge contained in the Common Core Standards for Algebra I. To this end, students will:
1. Use mathematical thinking, logic, and ideas
2. Use different math tools and techniques
3. Work independently and in small groups
4. Accept the responsibility for their learning

II. TEXTBOOKS / MATERIALS TO BE USED
Textbook: Big Ideas Math – Algebra I
Workbook: Big Ideas Math – Algebra I: Record and Practice Journal (kept in classroom)
Materials: Materials needed each day are:
- Binder – a separate three-ring notebook for math is recommended with dividers for:
  - current homework / warm-ups
  - graded and returned work
  - notes
- Sharpened / mechanical pencils - AT LEAST 2!
- Notebook paper – Graph paper will also be needed
- Colored pen for grading (not black, not a highlighter)
- Agenda Book

III. CLASSROOM RULES AND POLICIES
Valley View students are expected to demonstrate positive and respectful behaviors in class and on our campus. We expect all students to adhere to the guidelines as outlined in our Agenda Book and on our website. The standards for Citizenship grades are outlined in both documents. In this classroom, the one watchword that all students will be expected to abide by is RESPECT. I will earn the respect of the students through fair and consistent teaching practices, while they will earn my respect by being responsible, respectful students. To do so, each student will:
- Be on time. When the bell rings, students must be in their seat, have all materials ready, and be starting on the day’s warm-up activity. Failure to do so may result in a marked tardy.
- Be prepared and organized. Students must have all materials needed each day, and must have them ready to use before class starts.
- Be involved in learning. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, take notes when given, and work on warm-ups and classwork in the allotted class time given.
- Communicate respectfully. Students are expected to make eye contact, raise a hand to answer or ask a question, and to not interrupt the teacher or other students called on to respond.

Students who adhere to these standards will receive individual praise and/or a positive note home.
Students who disregard these policies will be subject to consequences in this order: Verbal warning, Detention, Phone Call Home, and finally Referral.

IV. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Algebra I is a rigorous, high-school level course, and students will be expected to think and behave with such a level of maturity. Taken in middle school, Algebra is an honors, or accelerated level class. Students were placed into this class based on test scores, previous grades, and teacher recommendation. It is the student’s responsibility to hand in all assignments on time, so as to not get behind in this fast-paced environment. Students may struggle at times with the rigor and pace – this is a normal facet of learning, but it is imperative that students ask questions and take responsibility for their learning to ensure success.

V. GRADING / HOMEWORK POLICY
Grading: The student’s degree of mastery of the Common Core State Standards is the critical element in determining the letter grade in this class. Your student will demonstrate mastery in this class by performance on tests, quizzes, class work, homework, warm-ups, and special projects that may be assigned.
Grades in this class will be based on the following percentages:

- Assessments – 70% (Tests, Quizzes, Performance Tasks, or other summative projects)
- Classwork – 20% (Activities, Notes, Warm-ups)
- Homework – 10% (checked daily for completion, with grades compiled weekly)

Tests and quizzes cannot be retaken or made up (except when absent). Homework must be completed nightly, but should be viewed as a tool to help improve understanding and to build the confidence and skills necessary to score well on assessments. Report card letter grades will follow the standard grading scale, without any plusses or minuses:

90% and up = A
80% to 89.99% = B
70% to 79.99% = C
60% to 69.99% = D

Any grade below a 60% is not a passing grade.

I rarely offer extra credit assignments, but do include some bonus questions for extra points on tests/quizzes.

This class uses AERIES to communicate with parents and students. Grades are regularly updated and posted online for the convenience of parents and students.

**NO WORK = NO CREDIT**

An answer alone is unacceptable. Math is a logical process, and learning and communicating that process is just as important as obtaining the correct answer. To receive full credit, always:

1.) copy the problem
2.) work it out, with each step on the next line
3.) box (or clearly indicate) the solution
4.) give answers to word problems in complete sentences, using the correct units.

**To receive credit for homework, ALL WORK MUST BE SHOWN!**

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned almost every night (including weekends) and will be checked the following day at the beginning of class for completeness (not for correctness). Students will grade their own homework in class, and make all necessary corrections so that they have 100% perfect work to study from. Each assignment is intended to take anywhere from 20-60 minutes, with an average of about 30 minutes. To keep homework from taking longer than necessary, this time should be spent in a quiet place free from distractions. Immersing yourself in practice of a subject is the number one indicator of success, and the study habits built this year will help students throughout their lives. Late homework will not be accepted except in the case of excused absences.

To ensure that full credit is received, all papers (especially homework) must have the following heading: In the upper right-hand corner of your notebook paper:

First and Last Name
Date
Period #

On the first line of notebook paper, write the assignment (pages and problem numbers).

**VI: ABSENCES / TARDIES**

**School Tardy Policy:** Tardies are unacceptable. In accordance with the citizenship standards (pg. 12 of the agenda book) four tardies to class will result in a citizenship mark of “N” (Needs to Improve), and six tardies to class will result in a “U” (unsatisfactory) mark in citizenship. In this class, students are tardy if they are not in their seat, prepared, and quietly working on the warm-up when the bell rings.

**Classroom Absence Policy:** In accordance with district policy, if a student is absent, he/she will have the number of days absent to make up missed assignments. **It is the student’s responsibility to make up all work!** A calendar of what was missed, as well as printouts of notes and warm-ups are available at the front of the classroom. Any work turned in late due to an absence must clearly say “absent” at the top of the paper.

**VII: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CLASS**

The most important thing to keep in mind is that I am here for my students. Whether a student needs help before school, during homeroom, or after school, I will make as much time for them as possible. Students do not need to make an appointment to see me; if my door is unlocked, then I am available for them. I am usually at school until at least 3:30 pm every afternoon, except when school meetings or rare personal matters prohibit this.

A successful algebra student is logical, organized, and curious. Asking questions is the single best way to make sure that an acceptable level of understanding is achieved. If you don’t know, ASK.

To promote efficient communication, most class assignments are posted on the class website.

Parents and students can contact me in several different ways: you may write me a note in the student’s agenda book for the student to show me, you may call the school at (805) 520-6820 ext 1365, or e-mail me at valerie.yant@simivalleyusd.org. E-mail will generally get you the fastest response to any questions, comments, or concerns.