

## 2023-2024 Course Syllabus Pioneer High School

**Course Title:** Algebra 1  
**Instructor:** Mr. Ryan Hansen  
**Room:** C323

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**Website:** [www.HansenMath.com](http://www.HansenMath.com)

**Introduction:** Welcome to Algebra 1! It is a true privilege to be working at Ann Arbor Pioneer and I am excited to dig in and work collaboratively with my students this academic year.

I strive to provide the opportunity and atmosphere for students to express themselves and learn everything they can. I will make myself available to answer student and parent questions in a timely fashion. I will do my best to answer any question I am asked - within reason - or seek out the appropriate information as needed. More information on my credentials and background can be found via my website: [www.HansenMath.com](http://www.HansenMath.com)

**Course Description:** We will be following the *Illustrative Mathematics* curriculum. This problem-based curriculum makes rigorous high school mathematics accessible to all learners. In a problem-based curriculum, students spend most of their time in class working on carefully crafted and sequenced problems. Teachers help students understand the problems, ask questions to push their thinking, and orchestrate discussions to be sure that the mathematical takeaways are clear. Learners gain a rich and lasting understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures and experience applying this knowledge to new situations. Students frequently collaborate with their classmates—they talk about math, listen to each other's ideas, justify their thinking, and critique the reasoning of others. They gain experience communicating their ideas both verbally and in writing, developing skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

**Classroom Expectations:** Students are expected to challenge themselves and strive to achieve maximum comprehension of Algebra 1 concepts. This is a course where effective and efficient use of class time is of critical importance. This classroom is designed to be a collaborative learning community where we strive to grow as individuals and as a collective unit. Respect, kindness, and encouragement is required of everyone. All Pioneer High School policies will be adhered to (for example, cell phones put away during instruction, academic honesty upheld, appropriate use of language, etc.).

**Cell Phone Policy:** Our classroom norm/routine is for students to grab their assigned calculator from the wall organizer and stow away their cell phone in its place. Distraction via cell phone has proven to be the main impediment to academic success. Thus, we will remove this impediment such that students can work on interpersonal communication skills and maximize learning without this unnecessary distraction. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a phone call home and/or a referral to Pioneer administration.

### **Grading Policy:**

**Classwork and Homework Assignments (Formative / 20% of quarter grade)** will generally be assigned daily - also posted on Schoology - and it is expected that each assignment will be completed by the next class meeting so that questions concerning the exercises may be asked and answered in a timely fashion. Time will often be allotted in class for students to begin homework - to work together and ask questions before departure. Late work will be accepted through the following Saturday after it is assigned, with a late penalty assessed. Since solutions are frequently shared in class, completion includes documenting the process of how to solve a given problem.

*\*If absent, it is the student's responsibility to consult Schoology and/or ask for missed work.*

**Assessments (Summative / 80% of quarter grade)** provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery over several sections or an entire unit of study. Scores will be determined based on accuracy. Quizzes will generally be administered every week or so. Chapter Tests will be administered whenever a unit of study has been thoroughly investigated. Students will be afforded several days' notice before a Test is administered.

**Grade Weighting:** Each quarter is weighted as 45% of a student's overall grade. The Final Exam at the end of the semester is worth 10% of the overall grade. A student's semester grade is then a composite score of these components.

### **Supplies:**

- Workbook: *Illustrative Mathematics: Algebra 1*. Kendall Hunt publishing. These workbooks are provided by Pioneer High School. Students may write in them and keep them for future reference. (Students also provided a link to online PDF version.)
- Pencil
- Notebook/Folder to take notes, complete assignments, organize and retain paperwork
- AAPS-issued Chromebook or equivalent computing device

**Extra Help:** It is likely that this class may challenge you to change or modify your expectations and habits for learning mathematics. I will be available to help you during class and after school - all you have to do is ask! If this does not fit into your schedule, consider forming a study group to mull over problems that appear difficult. Most often, when great minds pull together, a solution is found!

I strongly believe education is a partnership between parents, teachers, students, and administration. If there is anything more I can do to make this year successful, please do not hesitate to contact me any time. I am looking forward to an amazing year!

Sincerely,



Mathematics Teacher  
Pioneer High School