Guide to your success – Algebra

Mr. Farrar – Northgate High School

**Homework**

Homework is generally given to practice what you have done in class, but often times I put challenging questions on the homework where you have to think beyond what we covered in class. Take the time to try to figure these out on your own. Check your notes and book and see if you can solve it. Write down what you know and what you need to know to solve it. I want to see that you put in the effort. Credit is given for proof of effort.

Everybody should get 100% of their homework done, not just to learn the material better and be better prepared for tests and quizzes but also because homework is 20% of your grade.

Homework works if you do it right.

1. Pay attention, take notes and copy the examples from class.
2. Do homework in afternoon/evening. Do as much as you can without the notes but use them and your book when you get stuck.
3. Answer the question, double check the answers in the back. If your answer is wrong, double check for a calculation error, then look again to see where you made the mistake.
4. Try the problem again.
5. In you still get it wrong, circle it and put it on the board for me during the brainfreeze the next day.
6. Check with your partner the next day and during the brainfreeze ask them for help.
7. You learn through your mistakes. It’s okay to be wrong especially on homework.

You can also deepen your learning when you help teach a friend. (This does not mean giving the answers)

**Tests**

You should be preparing for tests at least 2 nights before the test. We always have a review day the day before a test. The night before this review day you should look through all of your material and find out what you have the most difficulty with so that you can ask me questions on review day. 20% of each test will cover questions from previous chapters.

The tests may be challenging, but if you are able to do all of your homework, then you should be able to get a good score. I usually put questions that you have never seen before, but you understand the material (rather than just memorize it) then you will be able to figure it out.

**Participation**

Take part in the class discussions. You will find the material easier to learn if you are using the vocabulary in your questions or comments. When you ask a question, it helps the whole class. Math may not be your favorite class, but don’t distract the rest of the class by having side conversations with your friends. It just makes it more difficult for them to learn. You may be funny and entertaining, but his is not the time or place to do it.

Be here! Ready to go!