Welcome to Advanced Algebra 2

**Course Description**: This course is the third of a series of courses designed to implement the *State’s Standards for Mathematics* for grades 9-12. We will focus on specific learning targets “I Can Statements” that students will master by the end of each unit. In addition to mastering the new learning targets, **students will work to retain and build on knowledge from previous units and courses. The study of mathematics is sequential and we will always be building on previous concepts.**

**Basic Expectations:**

* **Be on time. Respect the ideas and opinions of others. I will never talk down to you in class, but I will also never talk up to you.** **On a daily basis we will carry on a discussion focused on developing, understanding, mastering, and then applying mathematical concepts.** **Everyone should have an equal shared presence in that discussion and you should always leave the room smarter than you were when you entered the room.**
* The school district has provided you with a computer to use during and outside of class. This is a tool, not a toy and I expect you to use technology as a resource, especially if you have to miss class.
* **Cellphones are not allowed in class.** Phone etiquette/responsibility are a significant problem in today’s society, you are on the job in this classroom, and cellphones are a distraction. We will discuss, at length, your relationship with your cellphone and social media. We all need to handle the responsibility that goes along with having a cellphone and make good decisions. Don’t allow yourself to become addicted to your cellphone and don’t develop poor habits that can potentially affect the rest of your life and the lives of others. **These expectations/rules apply to me as well**.
* As you work (sometimes **in class**, sometimes **at home**), you will have questions. I am almost always in the building by 7:30 and stay late. **Come in and get help as needed**. You can also reach me by **email** at todd.jorgenson@k12.sd.us and can see what you missed in class by going to **Google Classroom** where I will virtually always post a recording of one class period each day. You can sit in on class and listen to and watch everything that was covered in class that day. **The expectation is if you miss class you will attend class online as soon as possible.** As mentioned above, the study of mathematics is sequential. You can and must master concepts as we study/explore them in order to make use of and apply them to future concepts. **Advocate for yourself and get help as needed. You can do it.**
* As you work through the course activities, work on your ability to make conjectures (educated guesses) about the mathematics in problems. As you explain your own thinking, use mathematical reasoning to justify your solution method(s). Go beyond explaining your procedure; share your thought processes. Use diagrams, concrete models, and other representations to illustrate your reasoning.
* **Question anything that doesn’t make complete sense**. **Master the art of asking and finding answers to the question “why?”. Ask each other questions that press for mathematical reasoning, justification, and understanding.** Don’t ask/expect others to just “tell you how to do it.” Compare strategies for mathematical similarities and differences in solution methods. **Mistakes are opportunities for new learning; we can learn more by examining our mistakes than by just seeing a “correct” method. IT’S OK TO BE WRONG AND LEARN FROM IT!** Believe in yourself; don’t use the excuse of “I can’t do this!” Rather, have the mindset of “I haven’t figured out how to do this YET!” **Remove the word “can’t” from your active vocabulary.**

**Grading**:

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| **Semester Grade** |
| First Quarter (40%) | Second Quarter (40%) | Semester Final (20%) |

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| **Grading Scale** |
| A+ | 98-100 |
| A | 95-97 |
| A- | 92-94 |
| B+ | 89-91 |
| B | 86-88 |
| B- | 83-85 |
| C+ | 80-82 |
| C | 77-79 |
| C- | 74-76 |
| D+ | 71-73 |
| D | 68-70 |
| D- | 65-67 |
| F | Below 65 |

Quarter Grades will be calculated using the following categories:

* **Tests / Performance Tasks / Quizzes (75%)**: There will be a variety of assessments (quizzes/exams/applied problem sets) used throughout the course that will always be announced well in advance. We will often post audio solution keys to review material on Classroom to help you prepare for these assessments.
* **Problems of the Day Quizzes (10%)**: Students will frequently take 5-10 minute POD quizzes with their partner that involve concepts from previous assignments, tasks, or ACT prep type problems.
* **Homework / Daily Activities (15%)**: Homework is a critical element in this class. If you have questions on a homework assignment, you need to get extra help before school, after school, or during study hall. Late homework will be accepted but will be penalized for being late. Activities done in class are also subject to be graded. Homework is scored based on completion and effort and each assignment is worth 10 points. You can make mistakes on the daily work and still receive all 10 points.

**\*Enrichment Problems:**

**In order to earn an “A”, students must successfully complete 4 enrichment tasks per-semester. If a student does not successfully complete the required 4, the highest grade attainable is a 91% (B+).**

**Absence**:

In the case of a student being absent during a class period, each of the following things needs to happen:

* Upon returning, you must complete any assignment that was due the day you were absent.
* Check Google Classroom for any work that was assigned the day you were absent.
* Check Google Classroom and watch the recording of class as soon as possible and then come in for extra help/explanations as needed to master the concepts.
* **This is a good class to start forming study groups and work cooperatively with other students to master concepts and solve problems**. Come and see me before or after school for one-on-one help as needed. If you have a study hall period 6 or 7 you can get a pass from me to come in for help or just work in my room and ask questions as needed.

**Unexcused Absence**: If a student skips class or is unexcused from class, all work completed that day will be graded as a zero. The student must make up the work but will not receive credit for it.

**Planned Absence (extra-curricular activities, vacation, doctor, dentist, etc)**: Check with me prior to leaving if possible and then use Google Classroom to see what you missed or attend class online while you are gone if possible. You are expected to submit assignments on time. Special circumstances may arise and additional time may be needed and granted. Communicate with me in these situations.