

# Algebra 1 Honors

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to learn Algebra 1 Honors at Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School.

My name is Dawn Nolan and I am a teacher, a wife to Jim Nolan and a mother of six, Josh, 15, Eddie, 9, Betty, 7, Bobby, 5, Annie, 3, and Lucy, 19 months. I grew up nearby, graduating from Bishop Verot High School, then attending Dartmouth College where I majored in both Applied Math and Music. From there, I went on the Northeastern University and earned a Master of Business Administration as well as a Master of Science in Accounting degree. Last summer, I decided to begin enhancing my education by taking graduate level math classes and hope to earn a Math Certificate within the next few years. Taking classes has not only challenged my mathematical abilities, but has also reminded me what it is like to be a student, so it has been a valuable endeavor thus far.

My career began as an accountant for Ernst & Young in New Orleans, but I was quickly called to teaching. I've taught numerous levels of Algebra, AP Calculus, Geometry, Personal, Social, and Family Relationships, Freshman Success, and Vocal Ensemble at the high school level as well as Math, Science, and Technology at the middle school level. This will be my 16<sup>th</sup> year in the classroom and I look forward to the yearly challenge of growing as a teacher and enhancing student success.

My expectations are high. I know not everyone begins high school with the same skills. I plan to train students to form good habits and take pride in their work. Then learning and challenging students to think becomes the focus. I will provide students with the framework and know that if they do what I ask of them, they will succeed. I certainly hope each student chooses success for himself or herself by completing the required work and asking for help as needed.

I encourage students and parents to become involved here at Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School. This is your school and you can mold it into the community you would like it to be. Get involved in extra-curricular activities, be they here at Florida SouthWestern or elsewhere in the community. Be stewards of this institution and reward your parents, your community, and yourselves by being your best selves.

Remember that it is a privilege to attend Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School. This year will be challenging and rewarding. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am.

Sincerely,

*Dawn M Nolan*

Mrs. Dawn Nolan

# Algebra 1 Honors

## Course Description (from CPALMS, edited)

The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, called units, deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Unit 1- Relationships Between Quantities and Reasoning with Equations

Unit 2- Linear and Exponential Relationships

Unit 3- Descriptive Statistics

Unit 4- Expressions and Equations

Unit 5- Quadratic Functions and Modeling

Students will learn to use MathXL and Study Island to complete assignments and assessments and enhance their understanding of concepts with step by step examples, lessons, and videos. Students will continue to practice time management skills and work in cooperative groups, and will begin to learn how to use examples and videos to strengthen weaknesses independently. Test-taking skills are introduced.

## Grading

Each assignment or assessment will be assigned a point value and students will earn a grade based on the percentage of points earned as follows:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60%-69%

F = below 60%

Points will be earned on such items as tests, quizzes, homework, notes, and class participation. Each day that an assignment is late, the maximum number of points which can be earned on the assignment will decline by a letter grade. No credit will be given for work submitted more than five days late.

**Note:** A unique assessment testing the same material may be given to a student who is absent when the test was scheduled. In other words, a student who is absent for an assessment may be given a different version or type of assessment, but it will still cover the same material.

**Textbook:**

We will be using the online version of the textbook for this class, Prentice Hall Algebra 1 Common Core, 2015. It is available on MathXL, an online program we will utilize throughout the year. Students will receive more information about accessing this program, including usernames and passwords, in the second or third week of school.

**Supplies:**

Composition Notebook

1 ½” Three Ring Binder with Pockets

4 Divider Tabs, labeled

Warm-ups

Practice Problems

Tests and Quizzes

Homework/Handouts

Lined Paper

Pencils

Eraser

Glue Stick

Colored Pencils or Fine-Tip Markers

Expo Marker

Scientific Calculator with only one line on screen

**Texas Instrument TI-30Xa** is recommended

<http://fsassessments.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Draft-Calculator-and-Reference-Sheet-Policy-Updated-12-4-20141.pdf>

**Important:**

Students are expected to be prepared for class by having all supplies readily available at the beginning of class each day. If a student is missing an item needed for class, Mrs. Nolan will likely have that item available to borrow. Each item must be checked out and will “cost” a student one participation point. Borrowed items must be returned and checked back in at the end of class. If an item is not returned, a student may have to replace the item and/or may be penalized with an additional reduction in participation points.

**Note:** Calculators borrowed for an assessment will “cost” 5 participation points. Only a limited number are available, so students should be sure to come prepared on days when assessments are given.

### **Tutoring:**

I will be available for after school tutoring once a week for Algebra 2 students. In addition, Mr. Primack, is our in-house tutor for mathematics. He will be at school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students may make arrangements to see him during lunch, after school, or at times during Grit class (Personal, Career, and School Development). Peer tutoring is also available for a limited number of students. Please contact me for more information.

### **Contact Information:**

If you need to reach me for any reason, please send an e-mail to [dawn.nolan@fsw.edu](mailto:dawn.nolan@fsw.edu) or call the front office at 941-637-5673 to leave a voicemail for me. I will always do my best to return a call or e-mail within 24 hours.

### **Expectations:**

I urge you to stay on top of what I ask of you, always with your best effort. When students make a concerted effort to do so, they succeed in my class. If you are struggling, make an effort to utilize the help you have online. If you still struggle with a concept, ask for help from Mr. Primack and me immediately. Asking for help the day before an assessment will not allow for sufficient time to all of a sudden become comfortable with multiple concepts at once.

Be respectful to the teacher, classmates, and classroom.

Be prepared, not only with supplies and completed homework, but with a readiness to think, learn, struggle, and succeed.

Do your best. Always. Giving up at the first sign of uncertainty does not produce growth. If at first a problem seems too difficult, look at examples, notes, the textbook, and videos, or call a friend. Do the challenge problems and feel proud to give them your all. Be an asset to class discussions and collaboration, whether that means asking the questions or explaining the answers/process.

Emulate the characteristics of the Buc Brand, the description of which follows.

# Buc Brand

