

Algebra 2 Honors

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to learn Algebra 2 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 16th 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 2 Honors

Course Description (from CPALMS, edited)

Building on their work in Algebra 1 with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, students will extend their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions. Students will work closely with the expressions that define the functions, and continue to expand and hone their abilities to model situations and to solve equations, including solving quadratic equations over the set of complex numbers and solving exponential equations using the properties of logarithms. The Mathematical Practice Standards 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. The critical areas for this course, organized into four units, are as follows:

Unit 1- Polynomial, Rational, and Radical Relationships

Unit 2- Trigonometric Functions

Unit 3- Modeling with Functions

Unit 4- Inferences and Conclusions from Data

Unit 5- Applications of Probability

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. Time management skills, cooperative work, independent learning, test taking skills and application of the same skills to multiple types of functions are practiced extensively.

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 2 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 (both for this class and Chemistry Honors)

<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 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:

Algebra 2 is notably more challenging than Algebra 1. I urge you 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 in the past, you have been successful in math classes without doing homework or much practice, this may be the year that changes. Please stay on top of the work in Algebra 2, and when 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

