

# WELCOME TO HONORS ALGEBRA I -

**My goals for you this year are that you:**

- Master the concepts and skills of algebra I
- Develop your critical thinking skills
- Use your learning to solve problems more efficiently
- Identify and reflect on your own areas of strength and weakness
- Recognize your individual progress throughout each unit and throughout the course

**You will study seven units this year as listed below. For the complete curriculum syllabus, visit the *Academics* area of our district website at [masconomet.org](http://masconomet.org).**

- Solving Linear Equations (Chapter 3)
- Graphing Linear Equations and Functions (Chapter 4)
- Writing Linear Equations (Chapter 5)
- Solving and Graphing Linear Inequalities (Chapter 6)
- Systems of Equations and Inequalities (Chapter 7)
- Exponents and Exponential Functions (Chapter 8)
- Factoring and Quadratic Equations (Chapters 9 & 10)

**You will earn a summative grade for each unit based on your performance in each of four categories as listed below. Overall grades for each trimester are figured based on these unit grades. Unit grades will be posted online at the end of each unit.**

- Daily Homework (10%)
- Graded Homework (20%)
- Quizzes (30%)
- Test (40%)

**You must have all of the materials listed below for class every day. To track your progress and performance throughout each unit, you will keep all of your work in a math folder. Textbook assignments and notes will be kept separately in a graph notebook. Upon completion of each unit, all work will be collated, collected and filed within the classroom.**

- Textbook
- Graph notebook (for note-taking and daily homework)
- Two-pocket math folder (for keeping all of your unit work)
- Pencils and erasers
- Scientific calculator
- Metric ruler
- Student agenda

*Organization plays a critical role in students' success in mathematics. Keeping yourself organized is a simple, effective way to save time, reduce stress and stay on top of your work!*

**Your textbook is your primary independent resource. Some tips for using it effectively are offered below.**

- Register at classzone.com to access the textbook online & to utilize a variety of resources & tools.
- Preview the concepts by reading lessons in your textbook *before* they are introduced in class.
- Read the notes in the margins of assignments. They reference worked-out problems in the lessons that match the skills you are practicing.
- Check your answers in the back of the textbook (where available) as you are working to make sure you are doing problems correctly.

**Details about your work for this course are provided below.**

Daily Homework and Homework Quizzes:

- You will be assigned about 45 minutes of homework per day.
- You must work on all assigned problems and show work for every problem that requires calculation.
- At the start of class each day, you will correct and review your homework independently; you will then have the opportunity to ask your teacher any outstanding questions.
- To assess your daily homework, your teacher will circulate the classroom and check your homework or you will take a brief homework quiz. Your teacher will be looking for evidence that you are completing your assignments (and doing so on time), showing work for every problem, correcting your mistakes when you go over your homework each day in class, and remaining organized.

Graded Homework:

- These assignments assess your mastery of the skills taught and are given about 1-2 times per week.
- You are encouraged to use your class notes, daily homework and textbook as resources for working through these problems.

Quizzes:

- Quizzes assess conceptual understanding, skill mastery, and problem-solving skills with emphasis on applying these in new situations.
- You will take 2-3 quizzes per unit.
- It is essential that you study for these; reworking problems from the related lessons and preparing specific questions for class the day before each quiz are highly recommended.
- These assessments will be completed within one class period.

Tests:

- Tests, like quizzes, assess conceptual understanding, skill mastery and problem-solving skills; however, they cover more material and thus do not go into as much depth as quizzes.
- You will take one test per unit and about three per trimester.
- These assessments will be completed within one class period.