

Teacher: Mr. James Baker
Phone #: (209) 832-6600, extension 4129
Course: Algebra 1 CP/Algebra 1 with Support

Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 7:50-8:25
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Room: F-10

I. Course Content:

Welcome to John Kimball High School. I look forward to a successful year in Algebra 1 CP. To prepare our students for future challenges in math, we have chosen a program that includes an active approach to learning problem-solving skills.

Kimball High School has designed a student-centered program, which will aid our young scholars in further developing their mathematic ability. The program's style leads students to the discovery of mathematical ideas. Then, once they've discovered these ideas, they communicate what they've learned, and apply what they know. Your young mathematician will solve problems individually and in teams throughout the year. We will focus on real-life situations to help students appreciate the power of mathematics in their daily lives.

Throughout the school year, students will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge in the following strands of mathematics:

Number Properties, Operations, Linear Equations, Graphing and Systems of Linear Equations, Quadratics and Polynomials, and Functions and Rational Expressions. Additional topics may be included in preparation for state testing (including the California High School Exit Exam) and as prerequisites to other math courses. You will also have many opportunities to see how mathematics relates and applies to other areas. Student presentations of work will be required regularly. Graphing calculators and computers may also be used for instruction.

The Support class will cover vocabulary, note-taking, organization, test taking skills, basic skill reinforcement, and homework assistance.

II. Grading Policy:

Each student's grade will be a measure of how much they have learned in this course. Students will be provided with opportunities worth varying points to demonstrate what they have learned. All students are required to bring and maintain a composition math notebook for each quarter.

The following grading percentages will determine each student's quarterly grade:

- 25% for completed homework assignments.
- 25% for completed classroom assignments (class notes and practice).
- 50% for quizzes, projects, district assessments and tests.
- Extra credit will be awarded for classroom participation, organization and neatness.

The grading scale for my class is as follows:

Grade Percentages	Letter Grade
100	A+
94-99	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-

67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
Below 60	F

How To Get an 'A'(A snapshot of how you're graded daily)

1. Everyday students should copy the agenda, the heading, and begin the B.Y.E.
2. Come to class with your text as you're responsible for vocabulary, class notes and practice problems (students will have the opportunity to begin homework in class). Everything will be recorded in the math composition notebook!
3. Prepare for an assessment at the conclusion of every major concept.

Basically a well organized notebook with daily B.Y.Es, class notes, and homework will earn you 50% of your overall grade. The other 50% of your grade is based on other assessments throughout the year.

III. Homework/Classwork:

Homework will be issued Monday-Thursday of every week. Students are expected to complete homework every night and record any questions or concerns they have in their composition book. There will be approximately 20-45 minutes of homework each night and students are encouraged to start their work in class. Homework must be neat and organized for full credit. Composition notebooks will be graded periodically and should contain all classwork, homework, B.Y.Es, and class notes.

Homework: Board Policy 6154

- Homework reinforces student learning to meet state and district standards
- Homework is planned, systematic, selectively checked and graded
- Homework is clear, specific and relevant
- Homework is a combination of skill reinforcement and exploration
- Long-term homework assignments will have checkpoints for completion and while students may work on them over holidays and weekends, ample time will be allowed to complete them during the week and prior to holidays
- Homework will be reviewed in class and returned in a timely fashion
- Per night, 9-12 students will typically average two hours of homework. 9-12 students may be given limited homework on holidays and weekends to meet course objectives and acquisition of skills. Students in advanced classes may receive more homework, including summer reading.
- Unfinished classroom work may be sent home to be completed but should not be required in addition to homework. Unfinished classroom work can be done at recess and after school.
- Regular reading at home on a nightly basis is encouraged but not required in addition to the assigned homework.

IV. Attendance and Tardy Policy:

Due to the abundance of group work, class discussion, oral presentations and in-class activities which cannot be duplicated outside of the classroom, regular attendance in this class is vitally important. Poor attendance will therefore result in less learning and hence lower grades. I support Kimball High School's tardy policy outlined in your child's Student Handbook. Class will always begin as soon as the tardy bell rings. Every morning when class begins, the opening task will be displayed under the B.Y.E. (Begin Your Exploration). Students should follow that prompt as soon as they arrive to class, as the school's tardy policy will be strictly enforced:

Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to work, when the bell rings.

First and second tardy – Teacher assigned consequence.

Third and fourth tardy – Student remains in class. Assigned 30 minute detention. Teacher-Parent contact.

1. Complete detention form. Original to teacher. Copy to student.

2. Detention served within two days.
3. Detention form stamped by detention teacher.
4. Form turned in to teacher who assigned detention. Teacher sends form to AP secretary for filing.

Fifth tardy – Student remains in class. Referral to AP for Saturday School. Parent contact by AP.

Sixth tardy – Student remains in class. Referral to AP for Saturday School. Parent contact by AP.

Seventh tardy – Send student to AP with referral.

If a student is ever out of class due to a school activity (field trip, sports, etc.) they are NOT excused from any of the work. All homework should be turned in on time and all assessments must be taken before they leave unless other arrangements have been made.

Students with excused absences will have as many school days as they are absent to complete and turn in work missed. This includes class notes, homework and projects only!

V. Academic Honesty:

Any copying of assignments, projects, test, or homework, or other forms of cheating (using another person's work) will result in a grade of zero (0) and a parent-teacher meeting will be held to all students involved.

VI. Make-Up Work:

Make-up work is accepted for all kinds of absences including unexcused absences and suspensions. Simply complete and file make-up work with the regular work to receive ½ credit. Be sure to print the word "Absent" or "Make-Up" at the top of each assignment. When it comes to making up assignments, class activities, presentations or test, it is the student's responsibility to see the teacher to make-up the necessary arrangements and to follow up on whether or not points were allotted. Note: Test and projects need to be made up within five school days to count for credit.

It is always better to turn in late work than not at all!

VII. Alternate Room Placement Work:

If students are sent to an alternate room placement during this class they will be given the daily classroom work and homework to complete during the time they are absent from class. It is their responsibility to turn in all completed work the next class period.

VIII. Materials:

The curriculum requires that you engage in creative learning activities in and away from the classroom. To be prepared for this responsibility, the following list of supplies will be required. While you may not use each of these items every day it would be prudent to carry them.

- pencils (preferably mechanical)
- eraser(s)
- colored ink pen (for making corrections, any bright color)
- small white board marker, black (two)
- college ruled paper
- graph paper
- 4 Composition books (one for each marking period)
- ruler
- protractor
- small scissors
- basic scientific calculator (for use at home), such as the Ti-30x

A Ti-84+ graphing calculator is recommended for college-bound students. A \$100 investment to last through the years of high school and college is a bargain.

IX. Courtesy Rules and Regulations:

Everyone has the right to learn and to be treated with respect. Consequently, everyone in the class is expected to follow these basic courtesy rules:

1. Students are expected to pay attention, follow directions and stay on task at all times.
2. Please remember to respect the teacher and other students when they are speaking to the class.
3. Always use appropriate language without profanity when you come to school. Remember, you are a professional student!
4. Please show respect for yourself, your teacher, your classmates and other people's property. Keep hands to yourself. Don't touch other people's "stuff". Take care of your materials.
5. Eating and drinking will not be tolerated in class for any reason. Students with food in their mouths will not be allowed in the room.
6. Please wait for the teacher to excuse you! The bell does not excuse the class.

Mr. Baker's Pet Peeves

Every human being has a few things that send them into a state of fury. However, if people are aware of their own pet peeves community harmony is often more common.

My pet peeves are as follows:

- Rudeness- The act of showing utter disrespect for the teacher, other classmates and one's self.
- Lying- Not telling the truth
- Classroom Sanitation – Lack of respect for one's own classroom by littering, gum chewing, not replacing materials or graffiti.

Please Note: Students will be sent to an alternate placement or home for upsetting the community's harmony.

If rules are broken, students can expect the following consequences:

1. Private verbal warning
2. Public verbal warning
3. Seat change
4. Detention
5. Alternate placement followed by a call home

Mr. Baker's Extraordinary Rewards

- Tons of verbal praise and love
- Occasional positive notes and calls home
- Lunch with your math teacher
- After school sport competitions with your math teacher
- The class can earn spontaneous preferred activity time
- Homework passes (good for one free homework each)

X. Contact Information:

Phone: (209) 832-6600, extension 4129

Office hours are daily (Tues. - Fri.) after school from 7:50-8:25 am. The fastest way to reach the teacher is by e-mail. Please email me ASAP to get updates and/or progress reports. After each assessment I email parents an updated progress report. However, I can only do this with parents who provide me with a valid email account.

Our goal is to build a partnership with family and community members. Together, we can create a learning environment that really helps our students.

Student-Teacher-Parent Contract

As your Teacher, I want the best learning environment for all students. I believe every student must respect my right to teach and other students' right to learn. This can easily be accomplished with clear expectations and a good working relationship with parents. This is why I am requesting your commitment below:

To the Student:

I _____, have read Mr. Baker's student/parent orientation sheet and I agree to abide by his procedures, rules and consequences.

(Student Signature)

To the Parent:

I _____, have read Mr. Baker's student/parent orientation sheet and I agree to support him in educating my child by encouraging my child to do all of his work, provide him/her with a place to study, and by reinforcing the concept of mutual respect in the classroom.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

(Daytime Phone Number)

_____ (please email me your address to ensure I have it)
(E-mail Address if available)

Please write any comments or concerns below. Thanks for your support!