

The Villages Charter Middle School - Buffalo Ridge Campus

2024-2025 Honors Algebra I - 8th Grade

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dana Adams

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Room # 150

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND CONTENT:

This class is a high school math course and will count as 1.0 credit as long as a "D" or higher is achieved as a final grade, which is calculated from each semester grade (70%) and the Florida EOC exam (30%). Students with a final grade below a "D" will be required to repeat this course.

The purpose of the course is to develop algebraic problem solving in real world and mathematical problems. The content will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Writing & solving multi-step equations
- Writing, solving, and graphing inequalities
- Linear functions - graphing, rate of change, slope, parallel and perpendicular lines, absolute and relative
- Solving systems of equations and inequalities
- Exponents and exponential functions including financial skills
- Polynomials and factoring
- Quadratic functions and equations
- Analyzing Data

TEXTBOOK:

Our textbook is Savvas's Florida BEST Algebra I. Students will be given login information in class and on my teacher connection webpage. Students may also sign out a hard copy of the textbook to bring home to use as a resource. This hard copy of the textbook must be returned in May 2025.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 - 1 inch 3-Ring Binder filled with notebook paper
- 2 Tab Dividers
- 3 pocket folders
- 4 boxes of pencils
- 2 packages of graph paper (not spiral bound or composition notebook)

ASSESSMENT:

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages in Skyward:

Compliance (HW & CW)	30%
Performance (Mastery- Tests & Quizzes)	70%

Grading Scale: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

Assignments/Assessments:

Students will have homework assignments every night Monday through Friday. Friday assignments are due Sunday night at midnight, so they may be done at any time Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Homework assignments could be assigned videos in EdPuzzle, MathXL, Quizizz, ALEKS, IXL, Pear Assessment (or worksheet) for assessment

reviews, or studying for assessments. Links to EdPuzzle will be in Clever. The Edpuzzle videos require that students complete all of the embedded questions, and does NOT permit fast forwarding. The embedded video questions are graded and will be entered into Skyward in the Practice category out of 50 points. Students MUST follow the calendar in the Google Classroom to complete the correct assignment (video, MathXL, Edulastic, ALEKS, Quizizz, or studying) on time.

Most chapters will have a Mid-Chapter Quiz. Students will be assigned a Chapter Quiz Review in Pear Assessment or on paper. This is a graded assignment. The day before the Quiz, I will answer questions and review all the questions on the Quiz Review. Students must study for their quiz in order to succeed. To study, students should redo all of the quiz review questions without looking at the answer or the correct work. Then, students should check their answers. If it is wrong, they have the correct work. They should find their mistake and try the question again. These quizzes will be entered into Skyward in the Performance/Mastery category out of 50 points. Students will be given the opportunity to complete a quiz retake FOR ONLY 2 QUIZZES A GRADING PERIOD. The higher score of the quiz or its retake will be entered into Skyward. Students will need to sign up for a time before or after school to retake a test.

Each chapter will have a Chapter Test or Project. Students will be assigned a Chapter Test Review in Edulastic. This is a graded assignment. The day before the test, I will answer questions and review all the questions on the Test Review. Students must study for their test in order to succeed. Please see the studying procedure in the paragraph above for successful studying techniques. Other ways students can study are by doing problems from their book and redoing MathXL/ALEKS/worksheets the night before the test. The Chapter Review Study Guide grade will be entered into Skyward in the Practice Category out of 100 points. Students will be allowed to RETAKE ANY ASSESSMENT A GRADING PERIOD for the first three quarters. Students will need to sign up for a time before or after school to retake a test. The chapter test and chapter test retake will be averaged to put the extra points earned into Skyward. Only the students who studied and earned a 100% on the original test, will have a 100% in Skyward. There will be a Practice Test in the online textbook that students may complete for up to 5 extra credit points on the chapter test. I will take the percentage grade earned as a decimal on the Practice Test, multiply it to 5, and that is how many points of extra credit is earned.

WEEKLY EXTRA CREDIT: These will be available in the online textbook, ALEKS, IXL, or attachments in the Google Classroom and will be due Sunday night at midnight. The weekly Extra Credit assignments will be averaged if there is more than one, and that average will be entered into Skyward out of 100 points in the Practice Category. Once the week has passed, students may not do the previous week's extra credit. They may only work on extra credit for the week we are in. The purpose of the extra credit is to provide extra practice for students on the skills that we are covering that week AND to allow students to earn extra points in Skyward if they make major mistakes on practice assignments.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "middle school", "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 24-25 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

VCMS Bell Schedule

Homeroom/1st period: 7:50-8:50

2nd period: 8:55-9:45

3rd period: 9:50-10:40

4th period: 10:45-11:35

5th period: 11:40-1:00 (including a 25-minute lunch period)

6th period: 1:05-1:55

7th period: 2:00-2:50

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:

- ❖ You are responsible for bringing your math binder, pencil, paper, and eraser to class daily. You must also have all completed assignments turned in on time. Students who choose to come to class unprepared also choose consequences including parent contact, detention, and possibly a discipline referral for repeated offenses.
- ❖ Enter the class quietly with all necessary materials. You should be seated QUIETLY when the tardy bell rings, take out necessary materials for the class and begin working on the classroom activity listed on the board as "Classwork".
- ❖ To ensure that our time together is used wisely, be sure to use the restroom or get water during class changes. I know that you will have some emergencies during the course of the year; however, emergencies cannot always be before or during Math class. You may have a water bottle with CLEAR water only at your desk. Please be sure to refill your water bottle between classes.

Google Classroom:

Students will enroll into my Google Classroom the first day of school. All videos with embedded questions will be in EdPuzzle. The link to EdPuzzle will be in Clever. Most classwork practice assignments will be in MathXL. Students will log into MathXL through Clever. If you would like to help your child manage assignments in the Google Classroom, please ask your child to share his/her password, as I cannot add you into the Google Classroom. All assignments are posted on my Teacher Connection webpage calendar, as well as the Google Classroom.

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- Dismissal at the end of the class—Please remain seated and quiet until dismissed. The area around your desk must be clear of all trash ensuring a clean environment for the next group of students. I will dismiss you when the previous two expectations have been met.

Make-up Work:

- If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to obtain make-up work from the Google Classroom or my teacher connection webpage. All classwork and homework assignments are posted on my teacher connection webpage daily to assist you by keeping you informed. Assignments are also posted on my whiteboard in the classroom. Any handouts will have your name on them and may be collected from the class handout folder or a digital copy is in the Google Classroom. To receive credit for missed work due to an absence, a student must turn in assignments upon returning to school within the number of days missed plus one day except as noted under the Consequences section of the Disciplinary Policy (please see Student Agenda Planner.) However, any assignment that has a previously determined due date, that due date must

be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher. **I will be providing lesson videos in Edpuzzle for your child to watch the lesson and take notes on, if absent. Then, complete your classwork listed. It is vitally important to your child's progress in Math that he/she keeps up with the homework and completes it on time even while absent. Because I post assignments 2 weeks in advance, the homework IS CONSIDERED PRE-DATED AND MUST BE DONE WHILE YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT.** It is much easier for your child to get help and re-teaching on a few questions than to be a lesson or two behind their classmates and try to make it up with me in 50 minutes while I am teaching a different lesson to the rest of the class. Any variation of this must be approved by the teacher. This is not elementary school where I have your child for $\frac{1}{2}$ a day or that I can ask my teaching partner to see your child for extra time to make up work from an absence. I cannot take your child out of another class to give him/her more time.

Late Work:

- If you do not turn in your assignments on time, points will be deducted as per the VCMS policy as follows: 1 day late earns a maximum of 60%, 2 days late or more is a 0%. If you choose not to complete homework or classwork in a satisfactory and timely manner, you should expect your work to be graded accordingly. I will contact parents by email if an assignment is late.

IMPORTANT DATES

- All Important Dates for class and homework assignments will be listed on the school's website: www.tvcs.org. Click on the Middle School tab, then click on Teacher Connection, and finally on Dana Adams.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me at Dana.Adams@tvcs.org, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the Syllabus return form. I do check my emails at least once a night, so that is the best way to get an answer quickly. I plan to tutor 1 morning a week and 1 afternoon a week. Please look for this schedule when it is set.

Electronic Signature for Syllabus

Please click on this link and fill out this form to indicate that you have read this syllabus. This electronic signature page is due Friday, August 16, 2024: [Honors Algebra I Syllabus Parent/Student Signature Form](#)

I am looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Dana Adams