What is Algebra?
The word “Algebra” comes from the Arabic word “Al-gabr,” meaning restoring an equation. In plain English, you will be able to work with equations with one or more variables to solve for unknown variables. As we progress through the course, you will have a better understanding and an appreciation for what Algebra really means.

Do I really have to learn Algebra??
OF COURSE!!! When you learn Algebra, you will not only pass this course, but you will face situations where you will have to use Algebra. You will be able to problem solve many challenging, yet fun problems through different techniques, not only during this course, but also in college and in your future career.

How can I learn all this stuff??
The purpose of this course isn’t to overwhelm you with everything about Algebra, and if you feel already overwhelmed, DON’T WORRY!! You, your classmates, and I will all work together to make your learning experience a success. Some days, we will be working on understanding the concepts and ideas through the class notes. But, many days we will be working in groups, where we will appreciate mathematical concepts through discovery. Together, we can make Math FUN!!

What materials do I need so I can learn Algebra easily?
You will need the following materials when you come to class:
- Your brain, so you can think, think, think!!
- Your enthusiasm, so we can have fun and learn!!
- One three-ring binder and four dividers (Class Notes, Homework, Quizzes/Tests, Activities and Projects).
- One notebook for class notes.
- Graphing calculator, preferably Texas Instrument-83 Plus. Please see me if you have another calculator.
- Writing utensils (Pencils and a Magic Rub Eraser. No Ink).
- Ruler.
- Loose leaf paper.
What should we agree on for class expectations?

So that everyone benefits equally as well as have fun, a few guidelines must be met:

- **Respect is the most important rule.** As you would like to be respected by others in the class, then you should also have respect for others, including your peers and Mr. S.
- Please come to class on-time with all your materials. Should you need to come late to class or leave class early, please have a pass or a note from home.
- When working in groups, please stay on task, and if necessary, help your classmates if they have difficulty with something. We are one big family in the class, so **HELP each other!!**
- All assignments should be completed on time. Generally, late assignments will **not** be accepted, unless prior communication was arranged.
- If you miss class unexpectedly, please provide a note from home in order for your late assignment to be accepted, and to make-up quizzes and tests. If you know that you will miss a class, however, please talk to me prior to missing class so arrangements for notes, assignments, or quizzes/tests can be made.
- You should not worry; there will be no pop-quizzes or pop-tests!! 😊 Quizzes will be announced three days prior and tests will be announced a week prior.

If you have other suggestions for classroom guidelines, you’re welcome to come and discuss them with me!

Is there such a thing as a dumb question?

NEVER!! All questions asked are intelligent because the person asking the question is intelligent. You should never feel embarrassed to ask a question, or think that the question you want to ask is dumb. There is a very high chance that if you have a question to ask, there will be more than one person in the class wanting to ask that same question.

Should you feel still embarrassed to ask the question, please feel free to ask me after class, and I will be happy to answer your question. If you continue to have more questions or need more help, I will be available during my lunch (6th period in room 122). You can also come for help before or after school. I will be at school everyday from 6:15AM to 5:00PM, so stop by! You can also come during my free period (2nd period) for help or just hang out!
So what topics will enlighten my knowledge about Algebra??

This year, we will cover seven units. In each unit, we will learn different concepts and techniques of Algebra to have a deep understanding of how Algebra is related to daily situations. The breakdown of these units is as follows:

1. Multiple-Variable Models
2. Modeling Public Opinion
3. Symbol Sense and Algebraic Reasoning
4. Shapes and Geometric Reasoning
5. Patterns in Variation
6. Families of Functions
7. Discrete Models of Change

What’s your grading policy Mr. S?

My grading policy is really simple. It will be based on the total-point system. This means that your grade for each quarter will be based on how many points you received out of the possible total points you could have received. If you're interested in a percentage, multiply your answer by 100%.

Generally, assignments will have the following point distribution:

- Homework: 2 points per problem (10 problems per HW)
- Quizzes: 20 points total
- Activities/Projects: 50 points total
- Tests: 100 points

** Partial credit will be allowed on all of the above, as well as there will be extra-credit opportunities**

SO FEAR NOT, YOU WILL PASS IF YOU DO EVERYTHING!!

What’s an A+ on the Grading Scale?

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<td>74.5-79.4%</td>
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😊 Good Luck!!😊
😊 Let’s Learn!!😊
😊 Let’s have Fun!!😊