

HAMPSTEAD HILL ACADEMY
School Year 2026 – 2027
Class Syllabus

Teacher's Name: Mr. Pratta
Subject: CCSS Algebra I

Grade Level: 8
Contact Information: bpratta@hha47.org

WELCOME!

Welcome to Algebra I! We have an exciting, busy, challenging, and fun year ahead. We will be able to grow a lot together and as a classroom community we will work hard to give everyone an opportunity to meet our group goals and their individual goals. This is your last step before high school. When you produce quality work and strive to reach your goals this year, you will leave middle school prepared to tackle the challenges you may face throughout your educational journey.

GOALS

It is important to set goals throughout the year to make sure we are working to reach our full potential. We also must have BIG GOALS that will remind us what we are capable of achieving. The schoolwide goal for Algebra I mastery is 75% or higher on unit assessments, but this year, our BIG GOALS are:

“TOGETHER, we will grow to achieve an 85% or higher class average on our weekly review quizzes and each EOU assessment this year.”

“TOGETHER, we will grow to achieve an 85% or higher class average each marking period this year.”

We will track our class average with each progress report and report card using reflection surveys. It will be very important to support each other in order to make sure our class average reaches or surpasses our goal.

We will track our end of unit assessment average for each assessment throughout the school year. In order to reach this whole class goal, we must grow individually and as a group. Supporting one another will push us to reach or exceed our goals.

Illustrative Mathematics

This year all 8th grade students will explore mathematics, make real-life connections, and become college-ready through an evidence-based curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics. This program is based on the “Understanding by Design” model, which suggests that beginning instruction with the end in mind is the best way to engage students, make them active learners, and ensure their academic success. The curriculum is built around assessments that are consistent with advanced placement (AP) and college readiness standards. Students are given clear learning objectives that emphasize why each lesson is beneficial.

Through direct lessons, guided practice, and investigative tasks, students will prepare for quizzes, unit assessments, the NWEA MAP assessment and the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). We will use portfolio projects, class discussions, the math workshop model, field trips, debates, and hands-on activities to help us learn.

Course Units

Unit 0: 7th Grade Review

Unit 1: Exponents, Square Roots/Cubic Roots, Irrational Numbers
Unit 2: Linear Relationships
Unit 3: Linear Expressions and Linear Equations
Unit 4: Linear Systems
Unit 5: General Functions
Unit 6: Exponential functions, Percentage Problems, Interest Formulas
Unit 7: Polynomial Operations and Factoring
Unit 8: Quadratic Equations
Unit 9: Quadratic Graphing
Unit 10 Statistics

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Gain an understanding of the properties of real numbers
- Formalize the language of functions
- Explore the behavior of functions numerically, graphically, analytically, and verbally
- Use technology to discover relationships, test conjectures, and solve problems
- Write expressions, equations, and inequalities from physical models
- Communicate mathematics understanding formally and informally
- Use mathematical models
- Collaborate with others
- Challenge others
- Ask questions
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information
- Maintain an organized binder.
- Think critically
- Think about our thinking
- Track assessment data
- Set and meet personal goals
- Model seven essential character traits
- Exemplify the Leaders Go Places Five Promises

Grading System

Your grade is composed of three main components.

- **ASSESSMENTS - 30%**
- **QUIZZES - 30%**
- **CLASSWORK - 20%**
- **HOMEWORK - 10%**
- **PARTICIPATION - 10%**

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments/Projects

There will be different forms of assessment used to determine how well students are understanding and mastering the content we are learning in class. In this category, unit assessments and individual portfolio projects are considered.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes every Friday. Quizzes are incremental ways to determine how well students have mastered the content from the previous week. These quizzes also inform instruction and reviews before taking a unit assessment.

Student Portfolios

All students at Hampstead Hill Academy are required to submit a portfolio that contains twelve pieces of student work (three from each class) that show hard work, creativity, and accomplishment. In math, we will complete at least three projects based on certain units of study. Depending on size, each project will be kept in the classroom or will be kept in your portfolio binder in your homeroom class. Portfolio projects are meant to showcase your best work. Teachers and administrators will review portfolio projects during and at the end of the school year.

CLASSWORK/PARTICIPATION

Exit Tickets/Independent Practice

Exit tickets are used to assess how well students mastered the key skills and content from the day's lesson. Additionally, each student will maintain a math notebook throughout the year. The math notebook will be used to complete lessons, investigative tasks, and take notes. Along with the math notebook, we will also complete a variety of worksheets from other sources that can be graded as classwork.

Participation

Coming to school every day is the first step in preparing for the important transition to high school. You are expected to complete every assignment to the best of your ability and participate in class by asking questions, answering questions, and productively working independently or collaboratively on assigned tasks with your classmates. Almost every week, students will receive a participation score for the week out of 10. The following are considered when determining your participation score:

- Do Now and Exit Ticket questions are answered completely with full effort at the beginning and end of class
- Asking and answering questions in class
- Actively engaging with whole class, partners, and independent work
- Collaborating with peers
- Showing work and thought process on assignments
- Assignments turned in on time

Homework

You will have homework every night. Homework will be written on the board at the beginning of class. Students are expected to write their homework assignment in their agenda book. Homework will be checked daily for completeness and effort. It is your responsibility to complete homework each night and have it ready to be checked the following day. Homework will be graded for 10 weekly points. You can earn up to 2 points each day for completing your homework with observable effort. Mandatory study hall will be assigned if students miss homework. Students who fail to attend study hall will receive an automatic detention.

Coach Class

It is the responsibility of every student to **be proactive** and seek extra help when they feel it will help them to **grow** or if it will help them to be successful on an assessment, as well as commit time outside of school for studying. If you need extra help outside of class, Mr. Pratta will hold Coach class **most**

mornings from 7:15am - 8:00am. Students can also schedule another time with Mr. Pratta if extra help is needed.

Study Hall

Students who miss a homework assignment will be eligible for study hall after school that day. If assigned a study hall, students must stay after school from 2:50 - 3:30 and work on missed homework assignments. Students who skip an assigned study hall will be issued a detention for the following day.

Late Work & Makeup Work

It is expected that all assignments are turned in on time. When assignments are late, your participation score will be impacted (see above). Late homework will only be accepted if submitted the next day. If the homework assignment is returned the next day, students will receive half credit. Any work that is submitted after one day will receive a zero unless absences are excused.

Absences

Students are expected to be in class **EVERY DAY ON TIME**. Students are responsible for making up work after being absent from class. Once the student returns to school, it is expected that they will find any missing worksheets in the hanging file folder and check the weekly summary board to see what information was missed and what work needs to be made up. After reviewing the summary, students are expected to make up the workbook pages, independent practice, and homework. As we are helping each other grow, students can look to peers first to answer questions.

For each day absent, students have one day to return the missed work for full credit. *For example: if Student is absent for one day, the assignment will be due the following weekday. If Student is absent three days, the assignment will be due within three weekdays.* Turning in late work past the deadline will result in a zero.

Students who miss more than three days in a row must meet with Mr. Pratta to discuss a make-up timeline.

Bathroom / Water Policy

Students are expected to use the bathroom and water fountain before school and during lunch or recess to avoid missing class time. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school that can be filled and carried throughout the day.

Google Classroom

This year we will use Google Classroom. This means that you will use Google Chromebook to complete some assignments during class. Mr. Pratta will upload questions, surveys, worksheets, assessments, and other activities that you will be able to complete and submit all online. You will use your personal @hha47.org login and password to use for managing assignments. Therefore, it is essential that you remember your password. You can learn more at

<https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/classroom/>

Edulastic

We will be using Edulastic to complete nearly all of our assessments this year. Edulastic is an online assessment tool that gives students and teachers a complete and instant view of student learning and growth.

IXL

Independent classwork will be completed using a website called IXL. IXL is a personalized learning platform with a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, individualized guidance, and real-time analytics.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)

The Algebra I MCAP, which is held in April/May, will cover material on functions, rational and irrational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, and statistics. The benefit of Springboard is that we will be covering each of these PARCC topics in-depth.

Behavioral Expectations

In addition to Hampstead Hill Academy's school expectations, Mr. Pratta believes that developing a strong character is just as important to learning academic skills when educating young people to be successful in college and career. In fact, a wide body of research proves it!

Individual Rewards and Consequences

Examples of Rewards for Positive Behavior	Consequences for Negative Behavior
Verbal Praise Praise Note* Phone call/ ClassDojo message home* Video Games with Teacher Classroom Prizes Leaders Go Places Merits Strong Participation Grade	Verbal Warning Demerit Teacher Conference Restorative Room Referral Seat Change Detention* Family Conference*

**These consequences also involve family communication.*

Class Dojo

Mr. Pratta will use Class Dojo to track student behavior and to communicate with students and parents about daily positive and negative behaviors. Mr. Pratta will also use Class Dojo to update parents/guardians on your child's academic progress and any upcoming news related to our classroom. **If you and your parents/guardians were connected last year, ClassDojo should already be set up so you do not need to re-register. Teachers at HHA also use Class Dojo to communicate when students have detention and coach class after school.** It is incredibly important that parents and guardians connect to Class Dojo to track student progress.

Contacting Mr. Pratta:

You should contact Mr. Pratta whenever you have questions or concerns about anything. First, you **will ask Mr. Pratta in class** if you are having trouble or have a question. If you still have questions you will **go to coach class for extra help**. If you are not at school and have a question or concern, you are **encouraged to email Mr. Pratta at bpratta@hha47.org or call his cell phone (302) 803-3197 for emergencies**. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact Mr. Pratta at any time via email, cell phone, or by calling the school. The school phone number is (410) 396-9146.
