

# CENTRAL REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## HOME OF THE GOLDEN EAGLES

FOREST HILLS PARKWAY  
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### PRE ALGEBRA SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Mr. Eckersley  
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**Phone:** (732) 269-1100  
**Room #:** 180

**Introduction:** To begin, **respect, responsibility** and **accountability** are three of the most important words in our classroom. If you do not know the meaning of these words, look them up in a dictionary and familiarize yourself with them as they will be the primary ideals for not only our class, but life in general. Additionally, *everything* done in this course is important. The skills that will be taught in this course will lay the foundation for many future math courses and real life applications. There will be many frequent real world applications that will be addressed during the school year. By the completion of this course, you will have a new profound understanding of topics in the content and how they can be used for many years long after you graduate from middle and high school.

**Supplies:** The following supplies will be used in our course:  
(**bolded items** must be brought on a daily basis)

- **Three-ring binder with paper and pouch for worksheets, labs, tests, etc.** (the bigger the better – 3-inch preferred)
- **Writing Utensil** (pencil **required** for quizzes and tests, pencil preferred for homework)
- **Textbook** (used some days in class)
- Calculator
- Graph Paper with Straight Edge (ruler)

**Expectations:** It is the student's responsibility to do the following daily:

- Treat the course, professor, classmates, staff, school property and yourself with respect
- Attend class and be on time
- Keep a detailed notebook of course material
- Bring required supplies daily
- Perform all tasks as instructed in the given time frame

It is the teacher's responsibility to do the following daily:

- Provide consistent activities for students to partake in
- Instruct and facilitate lessons that will enrich comprehension
- Offer feedback and time for extra help if necessary
- Create and maintain a safe working environment for all students
- Treat all students fairly and with respect

**Homework:**

Homework will be assigned daily. Expect homework on weekends as well as holidays. **It is the student's responsibility to complete the assignment to the best of his or her ability.** Credit will be given for all assignments with work shown *regardless of answer*. Nobody is perfect and I do not expect every answer to be perfect. Therefore, as long as a valid attempt was made, credit will be given. However, you are expected to **show all work**.

**Projects/Labs:**

There will be some projects and labs assigned during the course of the school year. They will all pertain to some aspect of mathematics and the unit we will be covering at the time. All assignments will have detailed procedures and instructions and will be completed in a timely manner. There is no set number of assignments and the topics will be at the teacher's discretion. All labs will be accompanied by a set of questions to reflect on the activity and gain a deeper understanding of the topic it covers.

**Assessments:**

Quizzes and tests will be given frequently during the school year. Be sure to use all available resources to study for each assessment including notes and study guides. Contrary to popular belief, you *can* study for math- remember that practice makes perfect.

**Classwork:**

Over the course of the year there will be several assignments to be completed during class. The variation of classwork assignments are wide and may include worksheets, do nows, writing prompts, online assessments, packets and more. Ideally classwork should be completed during class where the most amount of help can be provided by your teacher. Any leftover classwork not completed in class should be done on your own time to be turned in on the date that it is due.

**Participation:**

Participation refers to the student's ability to make the best of the class he or she is in. Participation points always start off at 100. Points are deducted as necessary when students do not come to class prepared with their pencil, notebook/binder or textbook, or if they continually disrupt class. Points will be deducted for each time a student is not prepared for class.

**Grading:** The grading scale is in alignment with Central Regional’s grading policy as follows:

A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 75-79, D: 70-74, F: 69 and below

Our course will be broken down as follows:

<i>Tests</i>	30%
<i>Quizzes/Labs</i>	25%
<i>Homework</i>	20%
<i>Classwork</i>	15%
<i>Participation</i>	10%

**Attendance/Lates:** Being present and on time is essential to this course. If you miss or are late for a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate and to retrieve any assignments you may have missed. Remember this will also affect your participation grade. If enough classes are missed, it *will* lower your grade. **All assignments, homework, projects and topics will be posted on a weekly assignment sheet in the classroom. It is up to the student to check it if he or she misses a class for whatever reason.** If you are late for class, do not disturb your classmates, the teacher or the lesson. Sit down quietly and pay close attention to what the teacher instructs.

**Make-up and Late Paper Policy:** If any assignment, (including but not limited to homework and projects), is late without an excuse, the grade will be reduced by a full letter grade for each day it is late. **Homework drops to half credit when late.** If an excuse is presented, (such as an excused absence or other valid excuse), extra time may be given to turn in the assignment at the teacher’s discretion. *Time passes* may be used to give extra time to complete a homework assignment with full credit. Mr. Eckersley reserves the right to change this policy.

**Extra Help:** Extra help may be requested by students at any time. Students must schedule an appointment for extra help during a lunch period, study hall, after school, or before school. If extra help is requested, please let Mr. Eckersley know as soon as possible. Specific days will be posted in the classroom on a weekly basis for students to come for extra help. It is the student’s responsibility to come at the designated times if he or she requires help.

**Classroom Policy:** All rules and regulations as presented by Central Regional School district as well as the State of New Jersey will be upheld at all times.

Additionally, the following general guidelines will be expected of every individual in our classroom on a daily basis:

1. **Respect every individual and all property at all times.**
2. **Raise your hand to speak during lessons.**
3. **Maintain a respectful, organized atmosphere.**
4. **Stay in your assigned seat unless otherwise instructed.**
5. **Clean up your seating area before leaving.**

**Lates/Disruptions:** Being late to class will be treated the same way disruptions will be treated. If you are late for class or are disruptive three times within a 10 day school period, you will be assigned a detention. Further infractions will result in more severe disciplinary action including but not limited to parental involvement, guidance, write ups, etc.

**Entering/Exiting:** Hall passes may be written for those who wish to leave the classroom during the period. If it is an emergency, a pass may not be required at the teacher's discretion. When entering the classroom, it is expected that you act like young adults. Roughhousing, wild, lewd and crude behavior will be dealt with immediately. Remember that *every minute* in this class is important so **use the restroom before or after my class**. There will be very few opportunities to use the restroom during class.

**Discarding Papers:** It is very strongly advised that all papers handed out in class, (especially pre-written notes, tests, quizzes, study guides and labs), are all kept in your binder and not thrown out until Mr. Eckersley says that you may do so. There will be several opportunities in class during the year to correct papers, review old material, look back on assignments/notes and raise your grade. Therefore, **DO NOT throw things out!**

**Collateral System:** If you are unprepared for class for whatever reason, (ie, forgot a writing utensil), you may borrow one from Mr. Eckersley in exchange for an item you consider valuable to you. Items that you may trade may include phones, ipods, watches, jewelry, backpacks, etc. Items used for collateral will be given back when the item borrowed is returned to Mr. Eckersley at the end of class.  
*Remember that coming to class unprepared effects your participation grade!*

**Parental Involvement:**

Parents and guardians are essential parts of all of our lives. Parents/guardians will be contacted over the course of the year for both good and bad reasons. Due to the importance of parental involvement, please ask your parents or guardians to fill out the following information and return to Mr. Eckersley within one week of distribution.

## Contractual Agreement

I have read the student syllabus and will uphold the provisions/procedures outlined within to the best of my ability. I have also addressed any questions I may have had with Mr. Eckersley. I understand what is expected of me and have shared this information with my parents/guardians.

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_