

Algebra II -- Course Information

August 2007

Dear Parent(s):

Welcome to Algebra II!

Most of the information on this handout will be available from Mr. Youn's TeacherWeb site, which you can easily access from www.mryoun.com. Please keep this web address handy as it will be a good source for class-related info throughout the year.

Each student should **own or have access to** an appropriate calculator. I will be using the TI-83 or TI-84 for classroom demonstrations. Except for those that operate symbolically instead of numerically (*e.g., TI-89, TI-92, which will **not** be allowed for quizzes and tests*), each student should have a calculator that he/she is comfortable with as there will not be class time to discuss the various different key-strokes necessary on the variety of different models. We do have a few calculators for occasional use during class.

Students need to read the textbook in addition to taking notes during classroom lectures. There will be frequent quizzes and these, along with homework and notes, will be valuable in studying for the tests that will be given approximately every two-three weeks (see syllabus). Students are strongly encouraged to keep a folder of notes, homework, worksheets, quizzes, and tests. Although there is a certain amount of memory work involved, it is important that students understand that memorizing formulas will not replace understanding the **concepts** of Algebra II.

Student responsibility: Most high school students are very busy and have many demands made on their time in terms of activities, jobs, and advanced-level classes. I will do all that I can to help students learn the material, but success depends on each student:

- (1) **being in class** (*absences are costly in terms of missing important material*),
- (2) **being rested** and in the proper frame of mind to concentrate during class, and
- (3) **finding daily time** to study the concepts and complete the homework.

Since classes on a block schedule meet at most 2 or 3 times a week, success depends on a high degree of self-discipline. We must cover a large amount of material so there will not always be an opportunity to spend class time on completing homework or reviewing for tests. Please take a few minutes to look at the syllabus which has been provided for the first six-weeks of this course. **It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the work even when absent or involved in a school-related activity.** Any test taken after the assigned date may be of an alternate form.

Graph paper notebook for notes and loose-leaf graph paper for homework is encouraged but not necessary.

Class Supplies: *We request – this is not necessary however – that each student provide one ream of paper or a box of tissue to help out the Math department.*

GRADING: Homework & Quiz Average -- 40%; Test Average -- 60% (2 or 3 tests per six weeks)

Tutoring: When students have difficulty with the material they need to seek help **immediately**. My tutorial times are:

Mornings: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 8:15 – 9:00 A.M.

(no Wednesday morning tutorials, due to department meetings)

After-school: Mondays through Thursday **by appointment**.

I ask that you please send me an e-mail at Brian_Youn@roundrockisd.org to acknowledge receipt of this letter, and also to raise any questions or concerns you may have. I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,



Brian Youn

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E-mail: Brian_Youn@roundrockisd.org

Teacher Website/resources: www.mryoun.com