

Algebra 2 Newsletter

February 2013

Welcome

To College Prep & Honors Algebra 2

B.M.C. Durfee High School Math Department

Welcome to the second half of the academic school year. As a department, we will be focusing on rigor of conceptual understanding of Algebra 2, as well as procedural skills, fluency, and application of the topics that students are learning. We encourage all parents to e-mail teachers with any questions or concerns that they might have.

What Students Are Studying?

In College Prep Algebra 2, students have been studying Factoring. This skill will be used as we begin our lesson on Quadratic Functions.

In Honors Algebra 2, students have been studying Polynomial Functions. This topic will be revisited in more depth for students who are moving on to Honors Precalculus next year.

Helping Your Children Learn Mathematics

According to the U.S. Department of Education, *“In today’s highly competitive economy, solid skills in mathematics, including algebra, are necessities—not just for scientists and engineers, but for everyone. Being proficient in mathematics helps to improve students’ college and career options and to increase their future income levels. Beyond the education, career and economic benefits, a solid background in mathematics helps students to better understand their world and to become good citizens.*

And whether or not you completely understand your child’s math assignments, you can still help as he or she progresses through school by asking the right questions, helping your child approach the problems with the right attitude, and getting extra help from the teacher or a tutor as needed.”

- Encourage your child to have a positive attitude about learning mathematics.
- Stress the importance of effort. Prompt your child to face challenges positively and to see mathematics as a subject that is important.
- Avoid statements like “I wasn’t good at math” or “Math is too hard.”

Extra Help Web Sites

After school extra help is made available by each teacher at a student’s request. The following web sites may also be used to learn more about the topics that students are studying:

<http://coolmath.com>

<http://mathway.com>

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A Look Ahead...

Students in **CP Algebra 2** will be studying Quadratic Functions. In this unit, students will be using their factoring skills and skills in simplifying radical expressions to solve problems involving quadratic functions. Students will be learning how to graph a quadratic function, will learn to identify and find the different parts of a parabola, and will learn a number of ways to solve a quadratic equation.

In **Honors Algebra 2**, students will be studying Radical Functions and Rational Exponents. In this chapter, they will learn how to work with radicals, whether they appear with the radical symbol or as fractional exponents. Students will simplify radical expressions, solve radical equations, determine the domain and range of radical functions, find inverse functions, and graph functions and their inverses. Students will be having a test on this chapter before February vacation.

Accessing the On-Line Textbook

Direction for accessing the Algebra 2 textbook on-line and the resources that are available to students will be made available by individual teachers. Students should ask their teachers for their access codes if they have not already received them. Under the "Student Resources" tab, students are able to find additional worked-out examples for each lesson and a homework video tutor.

*We all use math every day;
to predict weather, to tell time, to handle money.
Math is more than formulas or equations;
it's logic, it's rationality,
it's using your mind to solve the biggest mysteries
we know.*

Math Club

Advisor: Mr. Steven Carter

The Math Club meets on Thursday afternoons. Anyone interested in participating in this club can see Mr. Carter in IMC 7. All Students are welcome.

Durfee's 3 Big Shifts in Instruction

1. Building knowledge through content rich non-fiction
2. Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational
3. Regular practice with complex text and its academic language

Important Dates

Here are some important dates that you should be aware of:

Report Cards Issued: 2/1/13

Early Release Day: February 14, 2013

February Vacation: February 18-22, 2013

No School on March 29, 2013 (Good Friday)

End of Term 3: April 5, 2013

Faculty e-mail Addresses

Jennifer Brogan-Price: jbrogan@fallriverschools.org

Delia Carbal: delcabral@fallriverschools.org

Steve Carter: scarter@fallriverschools.org

Jordan Clarke: jclarke@fallriverschools.org

Stephanie Hill: shill@fallriverschools.org

Hui Liu: hliu@fallriverschools.org

Signature Page

Please sign this page and have your child return it to his/her teacher. In addition, please provide us with a current e-mail address where we can send communications such as this newsletter in the future. If you have any questions or comments, please write them below.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Parent/Guardian e-mail Address: _____

Comments/Questions: