Syllabus for Algebra 3   **Instructor: Mrs. Deanna Cavicchia**
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Algebra 3 is a pre-calculus course that builds upon the skills acquired in algebra 2 and prepares students for their first calculus course. For this reason, sound algebra skills and successful completion of an algebra 2 course is a must.

Topics covered include:
- analyzing, evaluating, and graphing various types of functions including polynomial, rational, logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometric
- solving equations, inequalities, and systems of the same
- informal algebraic and trigonometric proofs
- analyzing and graphing conic sections
- introduction to the concepts of limits and derivatives and how they relate to function analysis
- using matrices,
- polar coordinates and graphs, vectors, series, and sequences as time permits

In addition, we will look at how topics in this course relate to and can be used to model real world situations.

Our text book is Glencoe's <u>Advanced Mathematical Concepts: Pre-Calculus with Applications</u>. Students will need to bring their book, pencil, and paper to class daily. Many students find it helpful to keep a spiral notebook exclusively for their notes from this class and a 2 pocket folder for handouts, tests, and quizzes. A graphing calculator is <u>required</u> for this class. We suggest a TI 83-plus or TI 84-plus.

Daily Procedures

Students can expect to take notes and have a homework assignment daily with the exception of most test and quiz days. Homework is graded based on completion, but is not collected daily. I also use "5 Minute Checks" to gauge student understanding of specific sections. I give time for questions at the beginning of class but I can not do every problem that was assigned and cover the next section adequately, so it may be necessary to go to Math Help or to come in before or after school if they don't understand a concept. The publisher also has a website, www.amc.glencoe.com with tutorials and practice problems for each section as well as test reviews. Students should keep track of their assignments in their student planner.

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Tests and Quizzes

Tests and quizzes are usually given once a week and are announced as far in advance as possible. Quizzes are usually worth anywhere from 10 to 45 points. Tests are usually worth between 60 and 100 points and will generally cover an entire chapter.
If your child is absent the day before a test or quiz, they <u>will</u> be expected to take the test/quiz the day they return provided it was announced in advance and no new material was covered while they were absent.

Grades
This year I am using a weighted grading system as follows:

Algebra 3

Homework   = 10%
        & 5 minute checks

Assessments   = 90%
        (tests & quizzes)

 Most homework assignments are worth 3 points and are graded for completion. Some assignments (5 Minute Checks in particular) will be graded for accuracy and are typically worth 2 points. Late homework receives a deduction of ½ point per day. Late assignments will not be accepted after 1 week.
Grades are calculated by totaling the points in each category then multiplying by the weight and converting that to a percentage score. Letter grades are then assigned according to the district grading scale.

- 98% - 100% A+
- 92% - 97%   A
- 90% - 91%   A-
- 88% -89%   B+
- 82% - 87%   B
- 80% - 81%   B-
- 78% - 79%   C+
- 72% - 77%   C
- 70% - 71%   C-
- 68% - 69%   D+
- 62% - 67%   D
- 60% - 61%   D-
- 0% - 59%   F

Other Useful Information

1. Math Help is located in various math classrooms throughout the day. Schedules are posted in all of the math classrooms. It is available during periods 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. I am available during 1st period and afterschool if arrangements are made ahead of time.

2. To help parents and students stay informed about assignments and their progress in the course, I will be using the online grade book, Power School. The site will be accessible through the district's home page and login information should be coming home soon (if you don't have it already). In addition, I have a webpage accessible through the Central's homepage. There you'll find printable copies of worksheets and other useful information.

This will likely be the most difficult math class of your high school career thus far. I can not stress enough how important it is to ask questions in class and to seek extra help when necessary (don't wait until the day before a test or quiz). I will do my best to answer your questions but I can not answer what is not asked. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you think there is a problem.