

**Course: Algebra 1****Course Credit: 1.0****Grade Percentages:** 40% Exams, 40% Homework, 10% Quizzes, and 10% Class Problems

**Course Overview:** The core mathematics course teaches the fundamentals of algebraic concepts and skills through incremental development. Students learn to manipulate signed numbers and exponents, graph equations on the rectangular coordinate system, and factor quadratic equations that have real roots. In the fall semester, instruction covers algebraic properties, fractions, factoring, signed exponents, properties of equalities, solutions of single and multivariable equations, abstract fractions, and the slope-intercept formula. In the spring semester, students learn to factor quadratic equations, use the Pythagorean Theorem, derive an equation between two points, solve linear inequalities, factor binomials and trinomials, divide polynomials, simplify radical expression, and manipulate scientific notation. Word problems include ratios, percentage, uniform motion, compound interest, and variation (indirect & indirect). Grades summarize 10 exams, 110 homework assignments, bimonthly quizzes, and classroom demonstrations.

**Textbooks:** *Algebra 1: An Incremental Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by John H. Saxon (Saxon Publishers Inc., 1990)  
*Home Study Packet for Algebra 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by John H. Saxon (Saxon Publishers Inc., 1990)

**Course: Composition 1 with Literature****Course Credit: 1.0****Grade Percentages:** 50% compositions, 20% vocabulary, 20% grammar, and 10% group writing activities

**Course Overview:** Composition 1 with Literature is a core language arts course that teaches the structure and style concepts fostered by the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Literature discussions analyze plot development, characterization, symbolism, motifs and themes. To enlarge the writer's tool chest, students learn and develop proficiency at adverb and adjective clauses as well as infinitive, present-participle, past-participle, and prepositional phrases. In the fall semester, instruction covers outline essentials, paragraph organization, phrase structures, and dependent clauses. Grammar instruction emphasizes writing in the active voice, eliminating changes in verb tenses, and resolving dangling phrases while concurrently developing parallelism in words, phrases, and clauses. The spring semester addresses multiple paragraph papers, specifically thesis development and paper organization. Students complete a narrative summary, literary essay, research paper, and creative story. In addition, students write six thematic paragraphs, which present and defend literary themes. Essay instruction includes strategies for succeeding on the SAT timed essay along with practice timed essays. Weekly vocabulary assignments encourage students to incorporate new vocabulary into compositions.

**Textbooks:** *Vocabulary for the College Bound Student* by Harold Levine, Norman Levine, & Robert T. Levine (AMSCO Publication, 2003)  
*A Writer's Guide to Transitional Words and Expressions* by Victor C. Pellegrino (Maui Arthoughts Company, 1989)

**Literature:***Shane* by Jack Schaefer*Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman*The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

"A White Heron" by Sarah Orne Jewett

"To Build a Fire" by Jack London

"The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

"The Open boat" by Stephen Crane

"The Bet" by Anton Chekhov