

Foundations of Algebra

Ms. Wilson/Coach Wilson– Wilson.Ann.K@muscogee.k12.ga.us

Shaw High School – Room 220 – 2016-2017

Foundations of Algebra is a first year high school mathematics course option for students who have completed mathematics in grades 6 – 8 yet will need substantial support to bolster success in high school mathematics. The course is aimed at students who have reported low standardized test performance in prior grades and/or have demonstrated significant difficulties in previous mathematics classes. This class will provide many opportunities to revisit and expand the understanding of foundational algebra concepts, will employ diagnostic means to offer focused interventions, and will incorporate varied instructional strategies to prepare students for required high school mathematics courses. The course will emphasize both algebra and numeracy in a variety of contexts including number sense, proportional reasoning, quantitative reasoning with functions, and solving equations and inequalities.

Course Outline:

This course will be made up of 5 units. They are as follows:

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Number Sense and Quantity	Arithmetic to Algebra	Proportional Reasoning	Equations and Inequalities	Quantitative Reasoning with Functions

Grading Policy:

- Summative assessments will be worth 50% of your grade. Summative assessments include tests, projects, presentations, quizzes, etc.
- Formative assessments will be worth 50% of your grade. Formative assessments include classwork, homework, warm-ups, etc.

Policies and Procedures:

- **Warm-ups** – Every day will start with a brief assignment on the board. Students are to start working on the warm-up immediately upon arriving in class. I will check warm-ups periodically, and they will be graded for effort and completion.
- **Bathroom Breaks** – Each student will be allotted 3 bathroom tickets each nine weeks. Unused tickets may be turned in at the end of the nine weeks for extra credit. Bathroom breaks will never be allowed during lessons.
- **Cell Phones/Electronic Devices** – I will occasionally utilize cell phones for instructional purposes. However, these are the only times that they are allowed to be seen or heard in the classroom. Shaw allows students to check their phones between classes and during lunch, but phones (as well as all other electronic devices) must be put away while in my class. If I see or hear a device during class, the following consequences are as follows:
 - 1st offense: Warning
 - 2nd offense: I will retrieve and lock up the student's phone/electronic device until the end of class.
 - 3rd offense: I will retrieve and lock up the student's phone/electronic device until the end of the school day.

- 4th and subsequent offenses: I will retrieve and lock up the student's phone or other electronic device and a parent/guardian may retrieve it after school.
- **Food/Drink** – There will be **ABSOLUTELY** no eating or drinking in my classroom. Food or drink must be in a sealed container and put away while in my class. Any opened food or drink in my classroom will be collected and disposed of. The only exception to this rule is a letter from a doctor or coach for hydration purposes.
- **Homework**- Homework will not be accepted late. As long as students show that they have truly tried, they will receive full credit. Partial credit will be given for incomplete homework. I will not collect homework.
- **Make-up Work** – In the event that a student misses work due to an excused absence, they have three days to make it up. Make-up work will not be given if an absence is unexcused.
- **Test Retakes** – I will allow students to retake tests if they are dissatisfied with their grade. In order to take advantage of a test retake a student must schedule and attend at least two after-school tutoring sessions with me or attend at least two school-wide math tutoring sessions. Retakes will also be scheduled and administered before or after school.

What I expect of my students:

- I expect all students to adhere to and follow all of the policies of Shaw High School and the Muscogee County School District as well as the policies outlined above.
- I expect all students to be in class on time and to be well-prepared with all materials.
- I expect all students to use **ONLY** pencils for this course.
- I expect all students to have a desire to better themselves.
- I expect all students to come to class ready and willing to learn.
- I expect all students to engage in the class and the mathematics to the best of their abilities.
- I expect all students to make mistakes, this is how they learn!
- I expect all students to be respectful of their peers, their school, me, and any other adult.

What students can expect of me:

- Students can expect me to provide them with a safe learning environment built on respect.
- Students can expect me to communicate assignments ahead of time.
- Students can expect me to be patient, fair, and supportive.
- Students can expect me to do everything I can to make this class engaging and enjoyable.
- Students can expect me to show the same level of respect to them as they are to show to me.

We have read and understand the information outlined in the syllabus for Ms. Wilson's Foundations of Algebra class:

Student's Name (print) _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Phone Number & email address _____