Algebra 1 Honors

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to learn Algebra 2 Honors at Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School.

My name is Dawn Nolan and I am a teacher, a wife to Jim Nolan and a mother of six, Josh, 14, Eddie, 8, Betty, 6, Bobby, 4, Annie, 2, and Lucy, 7 months. I grew up nearby, graduating from Bishop Verot High School, then attending Dartmouth College where I majored in both Applied Math and Music. From there, I went on the Northeastern University and earned a Master of Business Administration as well as a Master of Science in Accounting degree. Last summer, I decided to begin enhancing my education by taking graduate level math classes and hope to earn a Math Certificate within the next few years. Taking classes has not only challenged my mathematical abilities, but has also reminded me what it is like to be a student, so it has been a valuable endeavor thus far.

My career began as an accountant for Ernst & Young in New Orleans, but I was quickly called to teaching. I’ve taught numerous levels of Algebra, AP Calculus, Geometry, Personal, Social, and Family Relationships, Freshman Success, and Vocal Ensemble at the high school level as well as Math, Science, and Technology at the middle school level. This will be my 15th year in the classroom and I look forward to the yearly challenge of growing as a teacher and enhancing student success.

My expectations are high. I know not everyone begins high school with the same skills. I plan to train students to form good habits and take pride in their work. Then learning and challenging students to think becomes the focus. I will provide students with the framework and know that if they do what I ask of them, they will succeed. I certainly hope each student chooses success for himself or herself by completing the required work and asking for help as needed.

I encourage students and parents to become involved here at Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School. This is your school and you can mold it into the community you would like it to be. Get involved in extra-curricular activities, be they here at Florida SouthWestern or elsewhere in the community. Be stewards of this institution and reward your parents, your community, and yourselves by being your best selves.

Remember that it is a privilege to attend Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School. This year will be challenging and rewarding. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am.

Sincerely,

Dawn M Nolan

Mrs. Dawn Nolan

Algebra 1 Honors

Algebra is the study of operations and relations. This means we are studying how a set of inputs are changed through mathematical operations, such as addition or division, into the related set of outputs. We use variables, such as *x* and *y*, to symbolize the input and output values, respectively, as there may be multiple inputs and outputs. We will study how to visualize and draw these relations on a graph, how to manipulate and find the input and output values using the rules of our number system, and how to describe these relations in equations and inequalities.

Topics include:

* Real number system
* Monomials
* Polynomials
* Relations and functions
* Factoring polynomials
* Linear equations and inequalities in one variable
* Linear equations and inequalities in two variables
* Systems of linear equations
* Quadratic equations
* Sets and Venn diagrams
* Radicals and roots
* Rational expressions and equations

**End of Course Exam**

In order to earn credit for this class, Florida requires students to pass the Algebra I End of Course (EOC) exam administered during the last weeks of school. For more information on this exam, please visit <http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc>. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

**Grading**

Each assignment or assessment will be assigned a point value and students will earn a grade based on the percentage of points earned as follows:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60%-69%

F = below 60%

Points will be earned on such items as tests, quizzes, homework, notes, and class participation. Each day that an assignment is late, the maximum number of points which can be earned on the assignment will decline by a letter grade. No credit will be given for work submitted more than five days late.

**Supplies:**

Pencils

Paper

Graph paper

Three-ring binder OR notebook and folder

Calculator, four function

Expo marker

**Textbook:**

*Algebra 1,* Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2004

**Tutoring:**

I will be available for after school tutoring once a week for Algebra 2 students. Peer tutoring is also available. Please contact me for more information.

**Contact Information:**

If you need to reach me for any reason, please send an e-mail to dawn.nolan@fsw.edu or leave a message at the front office. I will always do my best to return a call or e-mail within 24 hours.

**Expectations:**

Be respectful to the teacher, classmates, and classroom.

Be prepared, not only with supplies and completed homework, but with a readiness to think, learn, struggle, and succeed.

Do your best. Always. Giving up at the first sign of uncertainty does not produce growth. If at first a problem seems too difficult, look at examples, notes, the textbook, and call a friend. Do the challenge problems and feel proud to give them your all. Be an asset to class discussions and collaboration, whether that means asking the questions or explaining the answers/process.

See the Buccaneer Beliefs below.



**Buccaneer Beliefs**

**Belief #1** We are polite and considerate in everything we do - Please and Thank You!

**Belief #2** We are respectful to each and every individual in our building – We greet people by name with eye contact. We hold doors open, say excuse me, WE RESPECT ALL!

**Belief #3** We do what our staff and administrators ask of us with our best effort, and we do it with a smile on our face.

**Belief #4** We take pride in the appearance of our building. We will keep our halls, cafeteria, and classrooms as clean as the plate we eat from!

**Belief #5** We cheer for one another; not only do we celebrate our success, but we also celebrate the success of others.

**Belief #6** We are open-minded. We listen and respect others thoughts, opinions, likes, dislikes, style, passion, characteristics, and personalities.

**Belief #7** We are always prepared and organized in our own way. It may not be the way you prepare or organize but if you ask us for something we can find it promptly.

**Belief #8** We are gritty! We are passionate and motivated to achieve the highest level of our ability. We make the most of every moment. There is urgency in our education.

**Belief #9** We have no fear. We give 100% on every task and we will never look back and say “I wish I put forth more effort and hard work!” We make it happen. We don’t give excuses. We find solutions.

**Belief #10** We are honest and true to our peers, elders, and to ourselves. We are all unique in our own way and we will all be productive members of our society and be proud of it!

**If we did all the things we are capable of, we would**

**literally astound ourselves.**

**Thomas Edison**