

Note to parents and guardians of students in Extended Algebra 1

My name is Ben Wichser, your child's math teacher this year. I'm writing to you today with two main purposes: to give you some course information and to inform you of methods you can use to keep current with class material and assignments.

Course Information

First, please read the following information, copied from an introductory handout given to my students this week:

Your grade for each semester will be determined according to the following criteria:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Daily Work | 30% |
| Assessments | 60% |
| Final Exam | 10% |

Daily work will be graded on demonstrated effort. Late assignments will be accepted only until the unit test and late assignments will not earn more than three points out of five.

Letter grades will be distributed according to the following chart:

| Grade | Percentage Range |
|-------|------------------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

Grades are calculated cumulatively throughout the semester. Thus, each quarter grade should be viewed simply as a progress report.

You are expected to come to every class and to come on time. I keep careful track of attendance, and notify parents and counselors when problems arise.

To ensure success in this class, you will need to bring the following every day: a pencil or pen, paper and a calculator that works with fractions.

Finally, to ensure a respectful environment for every member of the class, comments of a racist, sexist or homophobic nature will be deemed inappropriate.

I am available after school most days for those that need extra help. Please come!

In particular, please note that late assignments are only worth credit until the test over the assignment's unit. After that point, the assignments will happily be accepted and marked as completed, but they will not earn any credit.

How To Keep Current

There are three main ways to keep current with the course content.

- 1. Telephone.** Please feel free to phone me at 503-259-4971 if you ever have any questions. This phone number is a voicemail system, and I will return your call that day or the following school day.
- 2. Email.** My email address is Ben.Wichser@beaverton.k12.or.us. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or if you want an update on your child's progress. Some parents email me once a week with a simple "How did my kid do this week?". I am happy to respond to questions and requests for information, usually the same day or the following school day.
- 3. Web Site.** I keep a web site at <http://www.bhsteachers.org/wichser>. This site contains a calendar of assignments, along with copies of all handouts (both informational handouts and worksheets).

Regardless of your preferred method of contacting me, please do not hesitate to ask me if you have any questions. I cannot emphasize this enough! Parents who ask me for information get answers.

Finally, showing this letter to you is an assignment for all of my students in this course. Please print and sign below, indicating that you have received this letter.

Parent or Guardian, Please Print Your Name

Parent or Guardian, Please Sign Your Name