

Pre-Algebra 2025/26

Mrs Neff - Room 340

Welcome to a New Year of Math!

In this course, students will explore new models and strategies to solve problems, think critically, identify patterns, discover relationships, and explain their reasoning. These skills support success not only in math but across other subjects and real-life situations. Prior math knowledge will help build a strong foundation as students grow into confident problem solvers.

Assessments

Checkpoints (Quizzes/Tests): Given once or twice per chapter to assess understanding of key concepts. Students can find practice problems, answers, and worked-out solutions in the eBook: “References” > “Checkpoints” > CP1–CP11. Similar problems will be practiced during Review/Preview (independent work time).

Chapter Tests: Given every 2–4 weeks. Students may be assessed individually and/or as part of a team.

- **Individual Tests:** ~30–40% of material is from the current chapter; 60–70% reviews earlier content.
- **Team Tests:** Designed to be more complex, requiring group collaboration. 80% of the score is based on showing work and reasoning. 20% is for the correct answer. Discussion and teamwork are expected.

Midterm & Final Exams: The **Midterm** will be cumulative through Semester 1. The **Final Exam** will include content from the entire year.

Independent Practice (Review/Preview)

Assigned daily and often started in class. Students who stay focused can typically finish during class. Assignments are due the next day unless otherwise stated and must be turned in for credit. Questions can be asked during silent work time. No use of online textbook will be allowed during class. Students who are caught cheating will get an automatic zero.

Late work: Most of the daily assignments given in this course are designed to be done in class. If you do not complete the assignment during class time, then **YOU** are required to finish it before the next class date. If the work is due at the end of the hour and you do NOT complete it, then you will receive a late and lose 20% off your earned grade. **Required Materials**

- **Large Homework Notebook** (Review/Preview) – brought to class daily

- **Folder** – stores goals, worksheets, reflections, and tests
- **Sharpened pencils with erasers** – used for all work and assessments

Late & Missing Work

- **Absences:**
Work may be made up either ahead of time (for planned absences) or one day late per day missed, per the student handbook.
For **pre-excused absences** (e.g., vacation, hunting, events), work is due **two days after returning**.
Write "**ABSENT**" at the top of any make-up assignment to ensure full credit.
- **Late Work:**
A **20% penalty** will be applied. Work will **not be accepted after the chapter test** unless special circumstances are approved by the teacher.

Course Requirements: Students in Pre-Algebra are expected to:

- Keep a dedicated **notebook** for bell ringers, notes, and learning logs (used daily).
Pages will be numbered and page tops will be organized with all pertinent information.
- **Participate actively** in study teams. Classwork is more challenging than individual assignments and requires multiple perspectives and clear communication.
- **Set and reflect on goals** for each chapter, including personal growth goals during student-teacher check-ins.

Learning Targets (We will complete 4 to 5 chapters per semester with a goal of getting thru at least Chapter 9!).

Semester 1	Semester 2
Chapter 1: Problem Solving	Chapter 6: Transformations and Similarity
Chapter 2: Simplifying with Variables	Chapter 7: Slope and Association
Chapter 3: Graphs and Equations	Chapter 8: Exponents and Functions
Chapter 4: Multiple Representations	Chapter 9: Angles and the Pythagorean Theorem
Chapter 5: Systems of Equations	Chapter 10: Surface Area and volume

Online & Classroom Resources

Students can access **textbooks and resources** online at ebooks.cpm.org using their **Google login**. In-class hardcover books and calculators are for classroom use only.

Expectations

- **Be Kind**
- **Be an Active Participant** in your learning
- **Try Your Personal Best**
- **Respect Everyone and Everything**
- **Be Prepared:** Bring your notebook, folder, pencil, Chromebook, highlighters, and erasers daily
- Grades are based on **showing your work** — not just getting the right answer
- Missing work **seriously impacts** learning
- Lessons and problems are available at ebooks.cpm.org
- **NO CHEATING!!!** Copying answers from online, answer keys or other students will result in a **ZERO** on the assignment, test or quiz.

Classroom Rules & Technology

- **Leaving class** (for bathroom, drinks, etc.) is limited per the handbook and allows only one student to leave at any given time.
- **Phones** must be placed in the designated classroom shoe holder at the start of class and stay there until the bell rings.

Homework Assignment #1 – Due Sept 12, 2025. Worth 5 points!

Email Mrs. Neff at aneff@buckleyschools.com

Include:

1. A confirmation that you've read the syllabus
2. Your favorite thing you did this summer

Preferred Communication: email.... aneff@buckleyschools.com

It is the best way to get my attention. I check my email before school, during my 2nd hour prep, after school, and even sometimes in the evenings. I am confident that you and your student will be challenged and enjoy this year of learning! I love teaching math!!

Sincerely, Mrs. Neff

Mrs. Angela Neff
