

Russell O. Brackman Middle School

Pre-Algebra Syllabus

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| **Course Information** | **Teacher Information** |
| Pre-Algebra | Name(s): Derek Rizzo |
| Full Year | Phone: 609-698-5880 ext. 4030 |
| Class Location: Room # N121 | Email: drizzo@barnegatschools.com |
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**Course Description:**

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| **In Grade 8, instructional time should focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.** |

**Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives**

Students who successfully complete name of course will be competent in the following areas:

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| * Students will be able to Approximate Real Numbers; Perform Real Number Operations * Students will be able to Use Radicals and Integer Exponents; connect proportional relationships and lines; solve systems of linear equations * Students will be able to define, evaluate and compare functions; model relationships * Students will be able to understand congruence and similarity; apply the pythagorean theorem; apply volume formulas * Students will be able to analyze bivariate data |

**Course Texts / Online Resources**

Big Ideas Math

**Required Materials**

Binder, notebook, pencils, erasers, loose leaf paper for binder, graph paper

**Attendance Policy**

Regular and prompt class attendance is an essential part of the educational experience. The Barnegat Township School District expects students to be responsible and exercise good judgment regarding attendance and absences. Students accept full responsibility for ensuring that they complete any/all work missed due to absences.

**Course Topic Outline**

Please find a list of the units for this course:

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| **Content Area: Mathematics** | |
| **Course Title: Pre-Algebra** | **Grade Level: 8** |
| Unit 1: Exponents, Expressions and Equations | 50 Days |
| Unit 2: The Number System | 30 Days |
| Unit 3: Functions | 30 Days |
| Unit 4: Geometry | 50 Days |
| Unit 5: Bivariate data and data displays | 20 Days |

**Student Grades**

The grading system for this course is based on the category weights listed in each department’s policy. For this course, those weights are listed below. Each marking period, students will have a minimum of three (3) Major Assessments and five (7) Minor Assessments (explained below). Homework is graded for completion, and Class Participation is assessed using the district rubric.

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| **Major Assessments** | - | 50% of marking period grade |
| **Minor Assessments** | - | 30% of marking period grade |
| **Class Participation** | - | 20% of marking period grade |

**Class Participation Rubric**

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| **Meets or Exceeds**  **Expectations**  **100 - 93** | The student:   * ensures that the class is a community of respect; * consistently arrives prepared for class; * voluntarily participates on a consistent basis; * consistently remains focused and on task; * initiates and sustains discussion; * evaluates and responds to peer points; * consistently demonstrates leadership in collaborative activities. |
| **Approaches Expectations**  **92 - 85** | The student:   * recognizes the class as a community of respect; * usually arrives prepared for class; * willingly participates on a regular basis; * remains focused and on-task on a regular basis; * contributes to discussion on a regular basis; * listens to and responds to peer points; * contributes to collaborative activities on a consistent basis. |
| **Does Not Meet Expectations**  **84 - 70** | The student:   * fails to recognize the class as a community of respect; * frequently arrives unprepared for class; * rarely participates, even when called upon; * lacks focus and rarely remains on task; * rarely engages in discussion; * reacts to peer points rather than responds; * rarely engages in collaborative activities. |

* Examples of Major Assessments include items that are summative in nature, such as: tests, projects, formal presentations, reports, or any other type of assessment used to capture evidence of learning at the culmination of a unit of study.
* Examples of Minor Assessments include items that are formative in nature, such as: quizzes, exit tickets, , collaborative learning, in class worksheets, or any other type of assessment that is diagnostic in nature and used to guide instruction and provide ongoing feedback to students.
* Note: grades for individual assignments are entered into Genesis for the marking period in which the assignment is assigned and collected, and not a subsequent marking period.
* Extra Credit will only be available for assignments that have been approved ahead of time by the teacher and department supervisor.
* In this course, it is expected that students will submit only their best work, and teachers reserve the right not to accept work that is substantially below what a student is capable of producing.

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity**

The Barnegat Township School District places a strong emphasis on students’ integrity, and the district will not tolerate instances of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and are subject to consequences described in the Student Handbook and Board Policy #5701.

**Classroom Expectations**

1. All school rules and policies apply to this class.
2. The teacher and students will work together for a respectful, safe classroom.
3. Students will come to class on time, prepared, and ready to learn.
4. Students will complete all assignments, including homework, by all deadlines. Make-up work is only accepted after an excused absence. It is your responsibility to see me for your work before or after school.
5. Students will actively participation in class discussions and other activities in order to enhance their learning experiences.
6. Cell phones, iPods, or any other personal electronic devices are prohibited in class at any time.

**Extra Help and Support**

Occasionally, students will require additional help to master the content and skills in this course. If you need additional help, there are a variety of options for you, including:

* Before/after school help sessions with your teacher
* Peer tutoring from NHS / NJHS students
* Free online tutoring with Brainfuse (available from the Barnegat Library website)

As your teacher, I am committed to your success. If you need help, please ask!

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I have read and understand the syllabus for Pre-Algebra.

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Student Signature Print Name

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Parent/Guardian Signature Print Name