



## VALIANTS TEAM 2008-09 Pre-Algebra Curriculum Paper

**COURSE:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mr. Gefen, gefene@duvalschools.org

**TEXTBOOKS:** Foundations for Algebra, Year 2, books 1 and 2.

**Our mission at Darnell-Cookman is to prepare students for collegiate success through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum integrated with professional medical standards emphasizing integrity, the pursuit of academic excellence, and a passion for life-long learning.**

### EXPECTATIONS:

- Each student will complete every assignment to the best of his/her ability and work toward mastery of every skill taught or reviewed. As a student, you are expected to be a partner in the construction of your knowledge. You are expected to integrate course information, making it your own. What you gain from this course will be directly related to the effort you put in.
- Assignments will be answered in complete sentences unless otherwise directed.
- Every assignment will be completed in pencil with proper headings.
- Students must show all mathematical computations on all assignments and tests.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop a firm understanding of basic mathematical concepts.
2. To prepare students to meet success in Algebra I in Grade 7.

### GRADING:

#### Weighted averages:

		<u>Grading scale</u>
Tests	50 percent	A 100-90
Quizzes/Notebook	20 percent	B 89-80
Homework/daily assignments/participation	30 percent	C 79-70
Total	100 percent	D 69-60
		F 59-0

**TESTS:** Tests will be announced so that there will be time to prepare. Test reviews or study guides may be provided for the students. Exams will be based on, but not limited to, text material, homework, quizzes and in-class discussions.

**QUIZZES:** Quizzes will be used to measure the student's understanding of a particular concept. They do not count heavily for this reason. Some quizzes will not be announced.

**CLASSWORK:** All warm-up problems, notes and classwork should be kept in the correct section of the binder. Warm-ups, notes and classwork will include examples and notes that will help the student with homework and test problems. Some classwork assignments may be assigned as homework and may be collected for a grade.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework is likely to be assigned after each class and will usually be a review or practice of that day's lesson(s). Students are to **SHOW ALL WORK**. The majority of homework assignments will be checked during the next class period. It is the student's responsibility to check his/her own homework and to make corrections as well as ask questions. Students will receive full credit for completed work, half credit or zero credit for incomplete or no work. Should a student

receive a zero, he/she will complete a "Why I don't have my work" form, which will go in his/her folder.

**BINDER:** Students are required to maintain an organized binder. The binder, minimum size of 1-inch, should contain all work, notes, homework, handed-back tests and quizzes and handouts relating to the course. The math binder may be either separate or shared with another subject, but math material should be separate from other subjects. Binders may be spot-checked for a quiz grade – in previous school years, there has been a binder check during each academic quarter. Papers should be separated into the following sections:

- Warm-ups
- Notes/classwork/homework
- Saved tests and quizzes
- Reference/project materials

**PROJECT:** There will be one large math project during the school year. Each student will be responsible for keeping the statistics of the quarterbacks for a National Football League team (selected at random) and computing the passer rating. For Language Arts class, students will research and write essays about their quarterbacks. The final math project, due during January, will consist of a poster with various requirements. More details will be provided on a separate handout.

**MAKE-UP WORK:** The student is allowed one day to make up work for each day of absence. It will be the student's responsibility to consult Mr. Gefen or another classmate to get missed work or notes.

**HONOR CODE:** "Darnell-Cookman offers a quality education that not only ensures knowledge, but also cultivates virtues of honesty, integrity, and perseverance. Every student has the right to pursue an education free from the ills caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty. Darnell-Cookman is a rigorous and difficult program and ethical conduct is expected at all times."

Academic Dishonesty is a Class II intermediate offense and will result in a zero and parental contact.

Academic Dishonesty includes (but is not limited to): receiving or giving unauthorized answers on a test, quiz or project; copying another student's work or homework without teacher permission; creating "cheat sheets" for tests or quizzes, and giving other students test and quiz questions and/or answers.

### KEY GRADING DATES

Academic quarter	Progress report goes home	Last school day of quarter	Report card goes home
First nine weeks	Sept. 23 (B) 24 (A)	Oct. 23	Oct. 30
Second nine weeks	Dec. 2 (B) 3 (A)	Jan. 21	Jan. 28
Third nine weeks	Feb. 24 (B) 25 (A)	March 29	April 12
Fourth nine weeks	May 12 (B) 13 (A)	June 11	June 15 (mail)

**CONFERENCES:** Conferences must be scheduled through the Guidance Office, 630-6805. The available days are not finalized, but I will post them on my Web site when they are.

**EXTRA HELP/TUTORING:** Students must make special arrangements with the teacher at least one day out.

**WEB SITE:** I have a page at OnCourse.com and plan to update it regularly. I may not post assignments there regularly because it is each student's responsibility to keep track of

assignments in his/her planner. I also will provide links to helpful Web sites for not only subject material, but also project material.

**CONTACTING MR. GEFEN:** The best way is via e-mail – [gefene@duvalschools.org](mailto:gefene@duvalschools.org). I check many times each day. There is also a link to e-mail me at my OnCourse page.

### **RULES FOR VALIANTS' CLASSROOMS:**

1. Students will follow all directions the first time given.
2. Students will be in assigned seats on time, remain seated and raise their hands for permission to speak.
3. Students will come to class prepared each day with: pencils (math), pens, paper, notebooks, textbooks and completed assignments.
4. Students will keep their hands, feet and belongings to themselves.
5. No electronic devices, including iPods, cell phones and digital cameras, are allowed to be on during class.
6. Students will groom themselves in the restrooms only.

### **VALIANTS' TEAM CONSEQUENCES**

A conduct folder will be used to keep a record of misconduct and violations of classroom rules. The point system is based on a two-week disciplinary cycle. Points will be given in every core class that a rule infraction occurs. The conduct folders will be reviewed daily.

- 1 point: Warning.
- 2 points: Warning.
- 3 points: Phone call from a teacher
- 4 points: Lunch detention
- 5 points: Guidance referral phone call, from guidance.
- 6 points: In-team detention. The student will stay in one Valiants classroom throughout the course of the day (except for electives and PE).
- 7 points: Administrative referral.

Chronic offenses may result in a student's inability to attend team activities, such as Viking Day, field trip or other planned events.

Valiants teachers meet each day to discuss student behavior, so if a student commits one offense in three different classes in one day, that student will have reached the "phone call" consequence.

### **FREE-TIME VIDEO**

During the course of the school year, there will be a few occasions in which we will have some small blocks (20 to 30 minutes) of free time – such as after FCAT testing – and something called Viking Day, which is designed to give our students a small reward – about 50 minutes of free time – for their hard work. For some of those free-time occasions and Viking Days, I would like to be able to show a PG-rated movies, such as *The Princess Bride*, a live-action "fractured" fairy tale made in 1987; *Sky High*, a 2005 Disney film about the son of legendary superheroes as he enters a high-tech high school; and other films such as *The Incredibles*; along with episodes of *The Wonder Years*, a TV show about a boy's adolescence. (For more information on those movies or *The Wonder Years*, visit [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) or e-mail Mr. Gefen).

Also, during the course of the football project, I may choose to show game highlights and/or footage from NFL Films or the NFL Network. This material is typically PG-rated.

Please sign on the last page, indicating whether you allow your child to see PG-rated material as chosen by Mr. Gefen. In order to show PG-rated material, I must have permission from ALL parents, or I will show G-rated material.

# SIGNATURE PAGE

(return only this page to Mr. Gefen)

## I. CURRICULUM PAPER

I have read the curriculum paper and rules for Mr. Gefen's Math class. I have read and understand the Valiants Team's discipline plan.

Student (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## II. FREE-TIME VIDEO

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to view PG-rated movies and episodes in Mr. Gefen's classroom:

Parent or guardian (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## III. PARENT CONTACT

Mr. Gefen prefers e-mail, but there are times when a phone call must be made during the school day. Please provide the best phone number(s) and e-mail address to contact you during the day.

1. Parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred e-mail address for school-related correspondence:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred e-mail address for school-related correspondence:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_