

# Algebra 1

Matthew Tucholke  
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Phone Number: (701)-356-2050 ext. 9343  
Email: [mtucholke@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:mtucholke@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)



## Course Description:

In Algebra 1 we will build the foundational math skills needed for success in any math class taken after Algebra 1. Students will begin to use logical, and methodical, thought processes to solve problems. These skills will be transferable to any real-world scenario where someone needs to explain *why* they performed a specific action.

## Course Objectives: Students will be able to

- Solve single and multi-step equations
- Graph functions
- Factor polynomials
- Calculate probabilities

## Course Logistics:

- Lesson plans, instructional videos, and whole class announcements will be posted on [Schoology](#).
- Official grades will be stored in [PowerSchool](#).

## Communication:

- Any class updates or changes will be posted under the “updates” section on Schoology.
- If you have any questions/concerns, please send me an email ([mtucholke@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:mtucholke@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)) or Schoology message.
  - I will check my email periodically throughout a normal school day. I will occasionally check my email at night and on the weekends. I try to respond to all emails within 24 hours. If you send me an email on the weekend, or during a scheduled break, I may not respond until the next scheduled school day.
- My phone number is (701)-356-2050 ext. 9343
  - My phone is in a shared office space, so I would prefer to receive an email instead of a phone call.

## Participation:

- Students are expected to follow all school rules and be respectful of everyone. ([Student Handbook](#))
- In class I expect the students to take notes, ask questions, and work on the assigned material.
  - In-class time is the ideal time for students to ask questions about the material.
- The grades for this class will be based on the following breakdown:
  - 70% Formal Assessment, 20% Quizzes, and 10% Homework
    - Formal Assessments are the unit tests and a Quarter Cumulative test that covers material from the entire quarter.
      - The Quarter Cumulative will be worth more than an individual unit test
- There will be one assessment (either a quiz or a test) each week.
  - There will be no quizzes on days with a test
- Grades will be posted in [PowerSchool](#) and updated 1-2 times throughout the week.

- Homework will be graded almost exclusively on completion whereas quizzes and tests will be graded on accuracy.
  - Homework will be graded on completion to reinforce the idea of practice. Students will not be punished for incorrect answers, but instead rewarded for putting in effort to master a skill.
    - Homework answer keys will be posted on [Schoology](#) for students to verify if they are doing their problems correctly.
    - All homework must be turned in on Schoology. From their iPad, students will have an option to share their work with the relevant homework assignment. If a student does their work on paper, they must scan their work as a PDF before submitting the PDF to the relevant homework assignment.
      - The homework grading policy is subject to change at any moment.
- Quizzes will be graded on accuracy with more complicated problems being worth more points than easier problems.
  - Students will be able to receive partial credit on more complicated problems if they are able to show partial understanding of how to solve the problem.
    - This will be shown differently depending on the type of problem but will require the student to show work that is correct without getting the correct answer.
  - The purpose of a quiz is to help the students gauge their understanding of a concept before getting to the test.
  - Each day there will be a “class starter” problem that will be graded as a quiz.
- Tests will be graded in the same manner as quizzes.
  - Test grades will be put into the gradebook as the percentage correct that was achieved.
- There will be no extra credit offered in this class.

### **Materials:**

- Daily:
  - WFPS issued iPad (and charging accessories)
  - Pencil for quizzes/tests
    - Students are encouraged to bring a notebook and folder as well. All their notes/homework may be done on paper, and students who habitually come to class without their iPad (or a charged iPad) will be expected to complete work on their own paper.

### **School Rules:**

- Students do not need their cell phones during class. Cell phones are to be out-of-sight and out-of-use during the entire class period. If I see a cell phone during this time, I will confiscate it and deliver to the main office. Students will then need to follow the procedures in the main office to get their cell phone back.
- Headphones/ear buds shall not be used during class unless otherwise directed. Similar to cell phones, they should be out-of-sight and out-of-use during class. If I see headphones/ear buds during a time where they should not be in use, I will confiscate them. Students can receive them at the end of class. If it is a consistent issue, I will deliver them to the main office as well.
- Smart watches may be worn by students, but if they become a distraction, I will ask that they be removed. Smart watches must be removed for all quizzes and tests. If they are not, the student will need to come in outside of class time to re-take that quiz or test.