

Parents of Dr. Hartman's Algebra 1 Students, **Welcome!**

I like to periodically send out an overall update on how things are going in class as well as upcoming events (i.e., tests). For this first one, clearly I'm using "paper!" At my previous school, I sent out an **email** update on most Fridays of the school year. I plan to continue that practice here at WHS. As I'm moving more and more to the "digital age" (and trying to save money by removing some of our copy costs), I will be using email as much as I can! Thus moving forward, I will send emails to the address you have provided to District 145.

Course: Algebra 1

Teacher: Dr. Hartman

Email: David.Hartman@District145.org

Website: drdhartman.com

Overview: Algebra is the first course in the traditional college preparatory sequence. Course topics include equation solving, linear sentences, linear inequalities, lines, slope, graphing, exponents and powers, polynomials, systems of equations, quadratic equations, and functions.

Grading: 80% of the grade will be based on tests, *retests*, and the quarter exam.

10% of the grade will be based on quizzes and possible projects.

10% of the grade will be based on the semester final exam.

While not calculated in the grade, students will be required to complete **all** in-class and out-of-class (e.g., homework) assignments.

Required Materials:

Spiral notebook (which can be used on some quizzes)

3-ring binder (1.5 inches) and three-hole punched lined paper

Scientific calculator (e.g., the one your student used in middle school is fine)

Plenty of pencils and erasers (as well as a few pens)

Requested Materials:

I am requesting 1 or 2 boxes of kleenex to be collected during the week of August 17-21. Thank-you.

Additional Requested Materials:

As I have been preparing my classroom, I have made quite a few trips to the store to “build” a classroom, which will aid me in teaching the youth of District 145. There are still some items I would like to have on “stock” to use with my classes.

- Packages of construction paper
- Reams of white paper
- Scratch paper
- 24-packs of water bottles
- Granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Boxes of hanging folders (letter size)
- Boxes of manila folders

This is only a request. If you are in the position that you are able to send one or more of the items with your student, I would greatly appreciate it. Please send an email so I can monitor any donations. Thank-you.

Extra Help:

I am committed to helping your student learn algebra during class. Should your student need additional support, I am available for extra help many days before and after school*. I will also provide extra help using videos that I create and link to my website (using my iPad). Further, there are opportunities for students to get help during the A&P time as well as from NHS tutors. Encourage your student to touch base with me when they need help. (*I will share my availability with students, as I do have commitments with family, and teaching at NWU/UNL.)

There is a math study room available for students to use to work on assignments and study! This room (2007) is located adjacent to Dr. Hartman’s room. Encourage your students to access this room. Encourage your student to grab a study buddy and work together to deepen their understanding of math!

Expectations for Students:

- * Be willing to be a **thinker** each and every day.
- * Keep focused on the learning, NOT on the cell phone!
- * S.O.A.R. (Safety / Opportunity / Attendance / Respect & Responsibility)

Keys to success:

- * Be in class every day, on time, and prepared.
- * Be respectful of oneself, others & property.
- * Fully participate in all activities.
- * Complete all in-class and out-of-class (e.g., homework) assignments.
- * Most importantly: be a young adult of character

Dr. Hartman's Top 10 List:

There are some very important things that I need to share with you regarding my life as well as your students' opportunity in my class.

1. My oldest child started 8th grade this fall at Waverly Middle School; my youngest started 5th grade at WIS. While I am so excited for both of them, I am nervous like any parent. Lauren and Brianna mean the world to me! I want both to have a safe and meaningful experience each and every day. I expect nothing less than the best from their schools, the staff members that will work with them, and their fellow classmates. I know you love your children as much as I love mine. You expect the best for them at school at all times. I keep this in mind everyday.

2. WHS is new to me! I left my 20-year career in Lincoln Public Schools (7 years at Mickle Middle School and 13 years at Lincoln Southwest) including my position as department chair to invest into District 145. For so many years now, I have driven by and headed into Lincoln. I witnessed many of my colleagues have the privilege to teach their own children and the peers of their children. I spent my energy every year helping to strengthen LPS. I also invested my time in a community where I did not live.

I'm excited and ready to bring my energy to District 145. It is a privilege to teach your child in my class. Please have grace and patience as I adjust and get all my ducks-in-a-row! One of those "ducks" is my classroom. Thank-you again for any "materials" you are able to supply.

3. The best way to reach me is via email: David.Hartman@District145.org. Again, I try to send out updates, kind of like a class newsletter, every week or so. I will not, however, "push" grades. I am asking you that you periodically review your student's grade on PowerSchool.

4. Some of your children are involved in a lot! Balance seems to be a challenge (and goal) for most teenagers. From sports and clubs to work and family time, keeping a healthy balance is a necessity for all of us! Being a husband, father, teacher, UNL graduate course instructor, and NWU Advantage instructor, I also struggle with balance every week. I understand when your child feels a bit overwhelmed during various times of a course.

5. My **WEBSITE**: drdhartman.com I usually post assignments daily. This is helpful for students, especially when they miss class. My website also gives you the opportunity to know what we are doing in class. I encourage you to take the time to bookmark my website; also spend some time getting to know more about my personal and professional background.

6. Videos: I use my iPad to create "help" videos. There will be a help video for every review assignment handed out. I go through each and every problem on the review...sometimes I even offer more than one approach. There are times I create a "help" video for a concept that students struggle with (past or present). There are also times that I create a "lesson" video, created during the time I am actually teaching. I have made these in the past when large numbers of students are absent or the content is just of that "critical" type. These videos have helped so many students in the past. Students will find the links to my videos on the assignment log on the website. (There are even times when a student emails me...asking for help...I use my iPad to create a video that I can send back to that student within a matter of minutes!)

7. Learning teams. As part of my work around the research agenda with Math in the Middle at UNL when I was a Ph.D. student, we extensively examined and used learning teams. I try very hard to develop a community within in my classes here at WHS. I often have students sit by different peers, encourage them to make good choices of who they work with during board work time, and encourage them to form study groups off-campus (at night), in the morning in the commons, math study area (Room 2007 right next to mine), or even in my room. More learning happens for students who tap into the resources of their peers. This will look different than many of the math classes both you and I were part of back when we were in school.

8. Homework. Over the past decade, I have witnessed a culture of students who do less and less homework each year. This is both alarming and disappointing to me. My goals for students are twofold: (a) for success and (b) for opportunity. Homework opens the door for both. The point of homework is for students to practice certain things at home which in turn helps me know what direction I need to take the class and individual students. There will be times I create video that goes over the homework. Sometimes I will grade all or part of the homework. Other times I will ask students to post all work and solutions around the room for us to discuss as a class. Still other times I will hand out a worked-out solution manual. Students must practice before the next class period and must have some sort of feedback. Please monitor your student's homework completion. (Practice, practice, practice!!!)

9. Phones, phones, phones.... I cannot even begin to explain what a distraction phones have become in schools I have worked in and visited. Thank-you in advance for your help with this matter.

10. I'm excited to be here and serving the community of District 145!

Thank-you for taking the time to read this,

Dr. Hartman

Note: I would appreciate if you would be willing to send me an email and share some of the strengths of your son/daughter as well as any other information that will help me increase their success in my course!