

**Algebra II**  
**Westbury High School**  
**Course Syllabus – Fall 2008**

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Class information, including this syllabus, homework assignments, the date of the next test, helpful links, and more, can be found at the class website at <http://charlieburrus.com/Westbury/>.

**Topics**

We will study the following topics this semester:

- Equations and Inequalities
- Linear Functions
- Absolute Value Functions
- Linear Systems
- Matrices
- Quadratic Functions

**Course Requirements**

- Participation  
Students are expected to participate in class activities. This includes coming to class on time and prepared, with a pencil, paper, notebook, and a calculator if you have one (I have graphing calculators in class in case you don't have your own). Participation also includes taking notes in class and occasionally demonstrating solutions to problems to the rest of the class.
- Tests  
Tests will be part multiple-choice and part free answer. You will be notified well ahead of time when a test is scheduled. You may also check the class calendar on the website to see when the next test is. 100% class attendance on test day earns an extra 2 points for each student. If you should fail a test, an opportunity to raise that score will be given in the form of a fairly short retest in the afternoon within five days of the time that the test score has been communicated to you. If you pass the retest, your score will rise to a 70; if you fail the retest, your grade will remain unchanged.
- Quizzes may or may not be announced ahead of time, and may happen any time. They will be quite short, taking far less than half the class period. Some quizzes may be open-note, and some will not.
- Homework  
Homework assignments are generally due the following class period. Homework is graded on a combination of effort, percent of work completed, and a spot check for correct answers. Not all homework will be graded, but you won't know beforehand whether a particular assignment will be graded or not. Late homework will be accepted (for a reduced grade) until the next test after it is assigned. After the test, the homework for that unit will no longer be accepted.

Whenever you turn in an assignment, whether it is a homework assignment, a test or a quiz, you must always **SHOW YOUR WORK**. Even if you figured out the answer in your head, you must show me the process. I need to know not just that you can get the right answer, but that you followed a logical and consistent process. This is true even for multiple choice items.

**Prerequisites**

All students taking Algebra II should have passed Algebra I and Geometry. If this is not the case, please let me know immediately.

## Grades

Grades fall into two main categories: major grades and minor grades. Major grades are generally tests or projects; minor grades are homework and quizzes. Your grade for the six-weeks grading period will be weighted average of these grades: 60% major grades and 40% minor grades.

Your grade in this class is a reflection of the quality of work that you do. Your grade is not a reflection of how smart you are, or how much I like you, or your value as a person. Since our grading periods are six weeks long, you will automatically be informed of your grade every three weeks (for progress reports or report cards). However, I will do my best to keep you informed of your grade before those critical times, so that you can do what is necessary to maintain the grade that you want.

## Make Up Work

If you are absent on a test or quiz date, it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up. The make-up test will be at least as difficult as the original one. If you are absent on the day that a homework assignment is due (most days fall under this category), then the assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day you return to class.


## Communication

If you or your parents would like to communicate with me, and if it is not convenient to do so in class, then I can be reached in a variety of other ways. My email address is [cburrus@houstonisd.org](mailto:cburrus@houstonisd.org), and I read my email at least once a day, usually much more frequently than that. You can call me or leave me a message at 713-726-2140, ext. 386. We can also meet face to face here at the school; please call or email to schedule such a meeting.

## Textbook and Supplies

We will be using McDougal Littell's *Algebra 2*. Students do not need to bring their textbooks to school every day; books will be used primarily for reading assignments and homework assignments. We will be using graphing calculators in class. As stated above, you may bring your own calculator or use one of mine in class. Unfortunately, mine **cannot leave the classroom under any circumstances**.

Have a good year!



*Students: Detach the portion below and have your parent/guardian sign it. Return it within the first week of class and get 3 bonus points on your first test!*

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We have read and understand the Algebra II Course Syllabus for Mr. Burrus's 2008 Fall Semester.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email \_\_\_\_\_