

Mastery Algebra I

Ridge View High School

Mastery Algebra I promotes several key practices of High Schools That Work.

- Raises Expectations
- Removes Time Constraints
- Provides Extra Help
- Encourages Parental Involvement
- Prepares Students for Higher Mathematic Courses

Background

Improving the rate of success for students taking Algebra I is a concern at Ridge View High School. Mastery Algebra I has been recognized by the Southern Regional Educational board as an “outstanding practice”. Several teachers visited various schools where exemplary Mastery Algebra programs had been implemented. A decision was made to develop a Mastery Algebra program at Ridge View.

Major Components of Mastery Algebra I

- 77% - Lowest Unit Test Grade Accepted
- Unit Tests Weighted as 75% of the 9-weeks Grade
- Credit For The Course Only Given When Students Master All Unit Tests
- Tutoring and Retesting Required
- Parental Involvement
- Entire Math Department Involved in Program Implementation

Algebra I Statistics

School Year	# of Failures on the EOC	EOC Passing Rate
2005-2006*	0/175	100%
2006-2007	0/162	100%
2007-2008	5/156	96.7%
2008-2009	4/161	97.5%

*Mastery Algebra implemented.

Overview of Mastery Algebra I

High school math teachers met to develop the criteria for placement of students in Mastery Algebra I. Communication among teachers continues to be an integral part of the Mastery Algebra program. The high school guidance counselors are aware of the course requirements and assist in the course selection process with the students.

Students and parents are introduced to Mastery Algebra I during an informational session before the beginning of the school year. At registration, each student receives a Mastery Algebra information packet. The packet includes a course outline, parent/student expectations and pre-course homework. The pre-course homework is due the first day of class. The homework provides an opportunity for the students to review pre-algebra skills and gives the teacher insight as to which students have the motivation to complete such an assignment.

The content of the Mastery Algebra course reflects the South Carolina Math Standards for Algebra I. Twelve units of work are covered in the course. **If students do not score at 77% on a unit test, they must come in for tutoring.** This is done after school. When the teacher and student determine readiness, retesting of the unit occurs. This process continues until mastery is complete. Parents are notified throughout this process. Communication is strong.

Expectations of Mastery Algebra I

At Ridge View High School, we are committed to the notion that success in mathematics depends on a strong foundation of algebra skills. We expect students to learn to express themselves algebraically, to explain their procedures and to defend their results both verbally and in writing. This program encourages student responsibility while raising self-esteem and improving attitudes toward the study of mathematics.

Contacts

Teachers:

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Administrators:

Dr. Sherrill Marty Martin, Principal

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Brenda Mack-Foxworth, Asst. Principal – Curriculum Coordinator

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Mastery Algebra I

Date _____

To the parents of _____

- Your child was not successful in mastering the content of unit _____.
- The problem lies in the area(s) checked below.
- The student **must** come in for tutoring and retesting.
- **Mastery must occur on all unit tests for your student to earn credit for the course.**
- This is the _____ retest for your child.
- If retesting occurs for five (5) or more tests, the student could be recommended for Algebra 1 - Part 2 next year.
- Please sign and return this letter indicating that you are aware of your student's progress.

Low test score _____

_____ Homework not complete

_____ Lack of daily preparation

_____ Lack of attention in class

_____ Class activities incomplete

_____ Misc. _____

Mandatory Tutoring Schedule: Mondays & Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30; room A-7

Retesting Schedule: Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30; room A- 7

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Teacher

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Ridge View High School

Mathematics Department - Mastery Algebra I

Dear Parents and Students,

Please read the following Outline of General Requirements for this course and keep this sheet for your reference.

Guidelines

- The curriculum for Mastery algebra I is aligned to the S.C. Mathematics Standards. These standards can be assessed at www.myschools.com, however; all students will be given a copy of these standards the first week of the course.
 - The TI-83 Plus graphing calculator will be used throughout this course. Each student is required to have a calculator for use all year. The school offers the rental of a calculator for use all year. Students interested in renting a calculator must see Ms. Melissa Roberson in A-19.
1. Credit for Algebra I will be awarded upon mastery of the required content as outlined below. **Mastery** means that a student must make at least a "C"(77%) on each of the twelve unit tests. In order to receive credit for Algebra I, a student must complete all twelve unit tests.
 2. The course length is 36 weeks consisting of four 9-week grading periods. The yearly grade counts 80% of the course grade. Students are required to take the South Carolina End-of-Course Algebra Exam. This will count as 20% of the course grade. Each 9 weeks grade will be determined in the following manner:

75%.....Unit Tests (cumulative)

25%.....Homework, quizzes, notebook, group work, journals, etc.

3. Students who do not master a unit test (on the first attempt) with a grade of 77% must take retests until mastery achieved. The final unit test grade will be determined by weighting the original test as one third and the mastery grade as two thirds. If retesting is necessary, the highest final unit test grade possible will be 77%. Retesting should be done within two weeks of notification of non-mastered tests.
4. Parental notification will be provided if mastery is not achieved on a unit test. If the test is not mastered, a parent signature is required on the Parent Notification Letter sent home by your child.
5. Students are required to attend tutoring sessions before retesting.

Mandatory Tutoring: Mondays and Tuesdays 3:30-4:30, room A-7

Retesting: Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, room A-7

Additional tutoring will be available Monday-Thursday before or after school. Days and times will be given to your child at a later date.

6. All unit tests and retests will be kept in the student's classroom folder.
7. A grade of "O" will be assigned at the end of a grading period if the required material is not mastered. This will be replaced with the grade earned when mastery is achieved. In order to receive credit for Algebra I, a student must complete all twelve unit tests.
8. Parent involvement is an integral part of student success in Mastery Algebra. Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns to the teacher by contacting Ridge View High School (699-2999).
9. Homework assignments can be accessed using the homework hotline.

Mastery Algebra I

Pre-Algebra Calendar:

As you are preparing to return to school, you are encouraged to complete the pre-algebra review calendar. This assignment is due the first day of class and will count as a quiz grade.

Materials

- 3-ring Binder (2-inches)
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Graph Paper
- Dividers (5 - 8 tabs)
- Pencils/Erasers
- Texas Instruments 84 Plus Graphing Calculator (required)**
- 4 "AAA" Batteries*
- Kleenex (1 box)*
- Clorox wipes (Females)*
- 1 bottle of Hand Sanitizer (Males)*
- Colored Pencils
- Composition Notebook*

* Supplies that will remain in the classroom.

** The End of Course Exam permits the use of a graphing calculator.

Please return the following on the first day of class.

I have read the Mastery Algebra I course requirements and have discussed them with my child.

Date _____

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Remember: The pre-algebra review is due the first day of class.