



SAINT IGNATIUS

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Eighth Grade Algebra Program Handbook

2021 - 2022

Personnel

Dave Sabol '99 *Department Chair*

dsabol@ignatius.edu

Mr. Sabol is in his 15th year in the math department. In addition to being chair, he teaches AP Calculus AB, Algebra I, and Geometry. He is responsible for general oversight of the program.

Daniel Crew '99 *Program Coordinator*

dcrew@ignatius.edu

Mr. Crew will begin his 14th year at Saint Ignatius. Along with coordinating EGAP, Mr. Crew will be teaching Algebra II, Precalculus, and Geometry. Additionally, Mr. Crew is an assistant coach with the soccer program. As program coordinator, he is in charge of organizing all administrative aspects of the program.

Jon Barker '87 *Semester 1 Instructor*

jbarker@ignatius.edu

Mr. Barker is entering his 20th year at Saint Ignatius. This year he is teaching Precalculus, AP Calculus BC, and Multivariate Calculus. Mr. Barker is the head coach for our academic challenge team.

Rodney Gallaway *Semester 2 Instructor*

rgallaway@ignatius.edu

Now entering his 14th year at the school, Mr. Gallaway has taught the morning class since its inception. He also teaches Honors Geometry, Algebra I, and Algebra II and is the head freshman football coach.

Mark Kaiser '06 *Semester 1 Instructor*

mkaiser@ignatius.edu

This is Mr. Kaiser's 12th year at Saint Ignatius. He teaches Honors Geometry, Algebra II, and Honors Algebra II and also leads a summer mission trip to Louisville.

John Rowell '13 *Semester 1 Instructor*

jrowell@ignatius.edu

Mr. Rowell is in his 7th year in the math department. He teaches Algebra 1, Geometry, Honors Geometry, and Honors PreCalculus. Mr. Rowell is an assistant coach with the freshmen soccer team.

Course description

In this course, students will explore the fundamental concepts in algebra via problem solving, skill building, group work, presentation, and discussion. In short, the topics list includes linear equation and inequalities solving and graphing; an introduction to functions; quadratic equation solving and graphing; systems of equations and inequalities; and rational and radical equation solving. The course is equivalent to the high school's Honors Algebra I.

Intent and purpose

The program was created by the president of the school, Fr. Bill Murphy, SJ, in 2009 in order to provide Honors Algebra I to Catholic grade school students who may not have that resource available. The course is free of charge to any 8th grade Catholic grade school student.

Policy

Absences

The logistics of the program make it challenging to meet outside of class to catch up or administer make up work. As such, attendance is vital for a student's success. We will allow no more than 5 absences per student throughout the course of the program. As a student approaches this limit, the parent/guardian will be contacted regarding reasons for the absences and a plan of action going forward.

If a student needs to miss a day, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Planned absences should be sent to the instructor in advance, and absences due to illness should be communicated the day of the absence.

Calamity days

The morning class will not meet on days where the high school calls a calamity day (for any reason). This includes days where there is a delayed start, there will be no class. This will be announced on local TV and radio stations, as well as on the school's website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. In addition, families will be able to opt in to our emergency alert system so that a text message will be sent in such cases.

Calendar

The class will meet from 7 am to 7:40 am and follow the Saint Ignatius High School calendar (which can be found at www.ignatius.edu). In addition, there are days where the 9-12 students are not in class and the 8th grade students are (e.g., teacher in service days). See below for important dates, off days, etc.:

August 23	First day of classes
September 2	Parent meeting, 6:30 pm
September 6	No class, Labor Day
September 27	No class, Professional Development Day
October 14-15	No classes, Fall Break
November 8	No class, Professional Development Day
November 24-28	No classes, Thanksgiving Break
December 14-17	Semester 1 exam / End of first semester
December 20	First day of Christmas Break
January 4	Class resumes / Instructor change
January 14	No class, Faculty Retreat
January 17	No class, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 7	No class, Professional Development Day
February 21	No class, President's Day
March 24	No class, Professional Development Day
March 25	No class
March 28-April 3	No classes, Spring Break
April 14-18	Easter Break
April 19	Class resumes
May 24-26	Final exam/ Last day / end of second semester

Cooperation with grade schools

It is our policy that we will not make recommendations to any grade school regarding grade usage, scheduling, course credit, or any other matters. We will respect and support any and all decisions made by grade school administrators and faculty with respect to the morning course.

Credit Transfer

There is no promise of credit transfer for Algebra I to any high school, though successful completion of the program should put a student in position to pass an Algebra I placement test. If a student matriculates to Saint Ignatius High School after his 8th grade year, he will automatically be placed in Honors Geometry in his freshman year provided he finished the second semester with a B- or higher. If he does not, he will need to take our algebra mastery exam.

Dress code

Students are expected to follow the dress code of their home school while on our campus.

Grades

The instructors will keep an updated gradebook through the Canvas learning management system. Parents/Guardians will be given access to this system at the start of the program. At the end of each quarter, every student's current grade will be reported to his or her grade school. Only a numerical score will be reported; no letter grades will be sent. The usage of this grade from that point forward is up to the grade school principal.

Materials

Students are required to have a notebook (spiral or 3-ring binder). Students will complete classwork and homework on graph paper. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is also required. A textbook will be lent to each student for the duration of the year.

Parent meeting

A parent meeting will be held on campus at 6:30 pm on September 2nd. The room number will be communicated closer to the event. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the instructors and program coordinator to the families, and to address any questions families have for the staff.

Semester exams

Exams will be given which will cover all material in a given semester. These exams are given over the course of two days and are noted on the calendar above.

Tutoring

One-on-one tutoring may be arranged after 3:15 pm on the Saint Ignatius campus. The student should contact his or her instructor to schedule meetings.