

Parents,

I ask that you please send me an e-mail at alice_snow@roundrockisd.org to acknowledge receipt of this letter, and also to raise any questions or concerns you may have. **Receipt of this e-mail will count as the student's first daily grade of the school year.** I am looking forward to a great year!

■ **Alice Snow** Room P13-B Phone: 512- 464-8246
E-mail: alice_snow@roundrockisd.org

Tutorial hours

Before school (8:30 – 9 A.M.):	Mon	Fri
After school (4:15 – 4:45 P.M.):	Tues	Thurs

Algebra II

is an upper-level math offered at McNeil High School which is generally taken after Geometry or Models of Mathematics, and generally leads into either Pre-Calculus or Statistics. The concepts in this class **build upon those learned in both Algebra I and Geometry**. The curriculum in this class is quite challenging, and although there is a certain amount of memory work involved, it is important that students understand that memorizing formulas will not replace understanding the concepts of Algebra II.

Most high school students are very busy and have many demands made on their time in terms of activities, jobs, and advanced-level classes. Even though this class is a double block schedule and meets daily, **success depends on a high degree of self-discipline**. Please take a few minutes to look at the syllabus which has been provided for the first six-weeks of this course. **It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the work even when absent or involved in a school-related activity.**

Course Topics

Functions and Graphs	Quadratic Functions	Exponential/Logarithmic Functions
Systems of Equations	Polynomial Functions	Rational Functions
Matrices	Radical Functions/Rational Exponents	Conic Sections

Course Materials & Supplies

Paper/Tissue

To aid the math department, we request that each student bring:

Student last name **A – S**: **one ream of copy paper**

Student last name **T – Z**: **box of tissue**.

Calculator

We will use a TI-83/84 graphing calculator in class. A graphing calculator is occasionally required, sometimes optional, and sometimes not allowed at all (*for instance, on some major tests*). If you have one, bring it. Calculators that are capable of symbolic operations (*e.g., TI-89, TI-92, TI-Nspire CAS*) are **never** allowed during class. **The school textbook office has a limited number of TI-83's to check-out for the duration of the academic year.**

Pencils and erasers

Students are expected to bring to class a pencil and good eraser. Pencils

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Binder/Folder

Students are expected to keep a binder for their class notes, homework assignments, and quizzes. It is recommended that students keep their graded **homework assignments** until at least the **end of each six weeks** (*in case a grade discrepancy should arise*). **Quizzes** should be kept until at least the **end of each semester** (*to help study for each semester exam*).

A 1-inch loose leaf notebook is also required for in class use. It will be kept in the classroom and will store daily handouts that summarize each chapter section. Students will find that this will be a valuable study guide when reviewing for the TAKS test. Folders are available for the students to store the handouts and may be kept in a hanging file folder.

Students are to come prepared each day with a supply of notebook paper for note taking and in class work. When graph paper is needed, I will let the students know in advance so to allow ample time for it to be purchased.

Textbook

The textbook for this class is the Pearson/Prentice Hall Algebra II textbook. We have a class set of textbooks in the classroom, so students may leave their book at home if they find this convenient.

Grading policy

Major tests

60%

Typically there is a major test scheduled **every two-and-a-half weeks**. This means there are usually 2 (*sometimes 3*) major tests per six weeks grading period.

Test reviews are handed out in class before every major test (*at least one class block in advance*), and will contain an outline of what to expect on the test, as well as a list of practice problems to help prepare for each exam. Each test review counts as a homework grade and should be taken seriously.

Due to security concerns, it is departmental policy that **major tests may not be taken home**. Graded exams may be reviewed in class, or before/after school. Occasionally a student may wish to take a test home to review with a parent/private tutor/et al. Should such a need arise, please contact the teacher.

If a student is absent on the day of a test, he/she should contact the teacher to arrange a make-up exam. In this case, the student **may be given an alternate form of the exam** (especially if the student makes a habit of missing in-class exams).

Test grades **cannot** be dropped, nor can tests be retaken (*i.e., should a student perform poorly on an exam*). As major tests make up a majority of the overall class grade, it is of utmost importance that the students prepare appropriately for them.

Homework/Daily Grades

20%

Homework is assigned on a daily basis. Since my sections are a “double block”, the assignments as listed on the syllabus will be spread out over two days. It is imperative that students stay on top of their homework and **immediately ask questions** when they are having trouble understanding concepts.

Homework is sometimes graded on “completion” and sometimes graded for understanding via homework quizzes/warm-up. The warm-up is a selection of (usually 3 – 7) questions similar to those on the homework, and the grade earned on that “quiz” counts as the grade for that homework assignment. If homework is collected then the two be entered together.

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Quizzes

20%

In-class quizzes are generally given **about once a week**. Graded quizzes are returned and – unlike major tests – may be taken home. **One quiz grade is dropped each six weeks**. Although the quiz and homework averages are the same, there are fewer quizzes than homework assignments. Thus, one individual quiz affects the overall grade average more than one individual homework assignment.

Home Access (check your grades online~)

The Round Rock Independent School District allows parents and students to view their current grades online at: <https://accesscenter.roundrockisd.org/homeaccess/> If a question ever arises over a grade, please feel free to contact me.