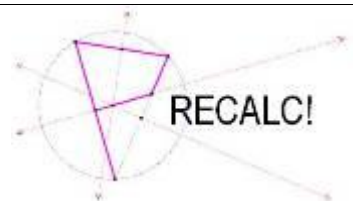


Eagle High School  
2011-2012



Todd Fogdall  
(208) 350-4235 Ext. 2210  
[fogdall.todd@meridianschools.org](mailto:fogdall.todd@meridianschools.org)  
[ehsmustangs.com/fogdall](http://ehsmustangs.com/fogdall)

**algebra** \ˈal-jə-brə\ *n.*, [ML, fr. Ar *al-jabr*, lit., the reduction] (1551) : a generalization of arithmetic in which letters representing numbers are combined according to the **rules** of arithmetic (Merriam Webster)

**analysis** ˌə-ˈnə-lə-səs\ *n.*, [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *Analyein* to break up, fr. *Ana-* + *lyein* to loosen – more at LOSE] (1581) : a branch of mathematics concerned mainly with functions and limits (Merriam Webster)

### What is this course all about?

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS COURSE: Honors Pre-Calculus is *not* an algebra course; instead, it is an **analysis** course. Essentially, this is a **college-level** course (with a college-level text) designed to prepare students for the **abstract** study of calculus. The focus of the course is less on algebraic procedures and more on detailed but sometimes open-ended examinations of functions and their properties. The exercises below may help to illustrate this difference.

Here are algebra questions:	Here are analysis questions:
Consider the function, $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{9-x^2}}{2x-3}$ . a. Evaluate: $f(2)$ b. Evaluate: $f(4)$ c. Evaluate: $f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$ d. Solve: $f(x) = 0$	Consider the function, $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{9-x^2}}{2x-3}$ . What is the domain of $f$ ? Express your answer in interval notation. Discuss any symmetry that appears in the graph of $f$ . Provide an algebraic argument for any symmetry encountered.

Of course, this does not mean that algebra is not an important component of the course, just that the focus is on much bigger issues. ***It is not enough to approach the course procedurally. A higher level of thinking and communicating is fundamental to success.***

For detailed information about course objectives and topics covered, check out the [district's curriculum page for this course](#).

### WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING TO CLASS EVERY DAY?

**Textbook:** Sullivan & Sullivan, *Precalculus: Enhanced with Graphing Utilities*, 5e, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009.

**Pencil:** You'll be happier if it's mechanical because my sharpener never works well.

**Binder:** Clean and organized and filled with an abundance of paper, preferably graph paper.

**Calculator:** TI-84 or TI-83. Feel free to bring another model *so long as you are competent with its functions*.

### What is expected of you to help foster your success in this class?

My expectations for you all boil down to one simple principle: **Treat yourself, others, and the community with R.E.S.P.E.C.T.** Some examples include the following:

Respect yourself and your classmates by being in your seat ready to learn when the bell rings.

Respect yourself by taking pride in your work, your attitude, and your ability to contribute.

Utilize your available resources, **especially the class website**.

Know all EHS and Meridian School District policies and that I will enforce them.

[http://www.meridianschools.org/Students/StudentHandbooks/Documents/2011-2012\\_High\\_School\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.meridianschools.org/Students/StudentHandbooks/Documents/2011-2012_High_School_Handbook.pdf)

The use of electronic devices of any kind is not allowed, unless otherwise specified. **All phones must be visible on your desk at all times and turned off.** If any network access occurs during class, you will be warned. Any subsequent offense will result in a discipline referral. (Updated January 20, 2012)

## How is your grade evaluated?

Average scores are rounded to the nearest whole number, and letter grades are assigned as follows.

90% - 100% ⇒ A

80% - 89% ⇒ B

70% - 79% ⇒ C

60% - 69% ⇒ D

0% - 59% ⇒ F

## Practice Exercises and Concept Quizzes – 15% of final grade

For each new concept, you will be assigned a set of practice exercises. ***In order to receive credit, show your entire thought process, write clearly in pencil on clean paper, and check your answers with “BOB” or in the teacher’s edition, which is available in the classroom for you at all times.*** You’ll have a little time to ask questions about the exercises when the next class period begins, at which time you’ll submit the exercises for scoring. ***Only a small number of exercises will be scored, so be sure to put your best effort into every part of the assignment.*** Sometimes you will be required to complete an additional set of exercises in class, essentially just a short, in-class quiz called a Concept Quiz. These questions may be presented to you via “clickers.”

- Excused absences on the day of a Concept Quiz will result in the score being exempted from your grade, but the original practice exercises are still due under the regular makeup policy; otherwise a zero will be assigned.
- Each semester, you may submit two sets of practice exercises late for full credit. Any additional late assignments will receive no credit. Note that concept quizzes do not fall under this policy because they are done in class.
- Each semester, the three lowest scores will be dropped to allow for unforeseen circumstances.
- ***Important:*** Your percent score on each set of practice exercises or concept quiz will be no lower than the score on that unit’s examination, ***provided the original practice exercises were completed on time and in the manner described above. Let’s hear it for second chances!***

## Unit Quizzes – 25% of final grade

- Unit quizzes that are missed due to an ***excused*** absence or tardy are exempted from the student’s grade and may not be retaken. (This policy is so other students can receive prompt feedback.) Consistent with the Not Fine Print, the instructor reserves the right to override this policy at his discretion.
- Final quiz percentages within each unit will be no lower than that unit’s examination score percentage.

## Unit Examinations – 45% of final grade

- Textbooks and notes are not allowed unless otherwise specified.
- If you miss a unit exam due to an ***excused*** absence, it is your responsibility to immediately make arrangements to complete it.
- Once an exam is started, ***it must be finished before leaving the room.***
- Once a semester, you may hit the “reset button” on an exam and take a ***new version*** of the unit exam. Your final score will be whatever you get on the new exam, so prepare well! For suggestions of how to prepare, talk to me. The new exam must be completed before the end of the following unit.

## Semester Final Examination – 15% of final grade.

***The Not Fine Print: The instructor reserves the right to make amendments to this syllabus at any time. Amendments will be announced in class and updated on the class website.***