

Math 2

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Course Information Sheet 2021

General Information

Course Overview: Math 2 is the second year of our three-year integrated math sequence. It focuses on fundamentals in geometry and algebra, in preparation for Math 3 or Math 3 Honors and beyond. In particular, the language of mathematics is emphasized all year, and a significant amount of points on quizzes and tests are given for appropriate mathematical notation.

Course Level: Most of what is covered in Math 2 is fairly straightforward and not overly conceptual. However, it is common for students to find math classes challenging, and Math 2 is no easier than Math 1. In most cases, this is due to difficulty with basic numeracy and algebra more than with the new material covered in Math 2. The first chapter in Math 2 specifically focuses on this. Students seeking help in Math 2, such as from a tutor, should make sure not to focus on new topics without first establishing solid foundations with numbers and basic algebra. Students who do have good numeracy and algebraic skills will find it easy to get a good grade in Math 2 simply by taking time to carefully do assignments and study for tests.

Units of Study: The primary content of the course is fundamental aspects of numeracy and algebra, including quadratics, factoring, and properties of exponents. The course also includes topics in geometry and probability.

Assignments

Work done in class (~25%)

- **Classwork:** A set of problems aligned with each section of notes is done together as a class. In addition, a few points are given periodically for things such as class preparation and in-class practice problems.
- **Reviews:** Reviews are done in groups of four. Each group gets four different versions of the review that are very similar except for being different levels of difficulty, allowing each student to choose one that is at the level that would most help him or her prepare for the test. Reviews also serve as study guides, and students often take it upon themselves later to print one or more of the other versions at home to practice.
- **Team Quizzes:** Students prepare for each final in teams. This allows for the dual purposes of providing for students struggling on specific concepts to have tutors for these concepts and enabling strong students to solidify their understandings through explaining the concepts to others.

Work done at home (~15%)

- **Online Quizzes:** Each section has a four-question multiple-choice quiz covering the fundamentals of the section. Online quizzes can be resubmitted until a perfect score is achieved.
- **Homework:** Each chapter has one homework assignment. Each problem is individually selected to avoid redundancy within assignments and has a hint provided in case students are unsure how to start it. Homework is graded on completeness of work shown and on corrections made in class, but not on accuracy.
- **Study Guide:** An example of each topic covered in class throughout the semester is included in the study guide. Full solutions and explanations of these are in the online notes.

Quizzes and Tests (~60%)

- **Quizzes:** To help students stay on top of the material, there is a small quiz after each section, usually the following day. The material is reviewed explicitly beforehand.
- **Chapter Tests:** Tests cover both conceptual and procedural aspects of the content.
- **Final:** Each final covers the whole semester and is worth two chapter tests.

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Required Materials

Calculator: A calculator is required for Math 2. A cheap scientific calculator is sufficient, although students intending to take Math 3 Honors next year should consider purchasing a Texas Instruments graphing calculator and using it this year in preparation for next year.

Computer: Starting this year, SVHS students are required to bring a Chromebook or other laptop to their classes. You can make arrangements with the school to borrow one if you do not have one and are not able to get one.

Other: Bring whatever you would like to write with and stay organized.

Things to make life easier

Online Materials: Almost all aspects of the course are available at ewyner.com, including class notes, the textbook, and most other course materials.

Use of Resources: Notes, book, and all electronic devices may be used on all assignments except tests.

Extensions: Students may request a new due date on any assignment for any reason, so long as the request is made in person before the original due date and the requested due date is before the date of the test.

Late work: Students can turn in late work any time they are ready, up until the day before the test, and it will be marked down only minimally (or not at all if it has an extension). To regain missed points for legitimate excused absences, students can choose to either attach a readmit slip to each assignment when turning it in or to have a total of 20 points added at the end of the semester.

Free C: Students may request a "Free C" on any nontest assignment, in person and prior to the due date, once per grading period. When the assignment is due, it can be turned in normally, or the Free C form can be submitted in its place for a score of 70%.

Score Increases: Any quiz can be retaken. Test scores may be increased through test explanations, in which students carefully explain how to do problems they had originally done incorrectly, as if they were teaching someone else. Quiz retakes and test explanations can be turned in any day before the day of the next test.

Study Sessions: At any point, a group of 4 to 12 students can request a formal teacher-led study session, given availability.

Signatures

We have read and understood this course information sheet.

Parent

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Student

Name: _____

Signature: _____