



Notre Dame School

August 12, 2009

Algebra Assignments #1-3 (30 pts.)

1. Your Textbook

Your textbook is an important tool and resource in the learning of mathematics. It is imperative that you cover your book with a sturdy cover, write your name and school year in the front, and note any damages in your book. Please let Mrs. Harkness know immediately if your book is not in good shape; otherwise you will be responsible for any damage.

2. Getting Started

Warning! Math is not a spectator sport, and reading and writing in mathematics is a skill you must acquire. Looking is not the same as doing. In the same way, reading through the worked out examples and understanding the steps are not the same as being able to do the problems yourself. You will never become good at any sport just by watching it. An athlete only gets good with practice. The same is true of developing your algebra skills. Remember that your goal is to be able to do problems of the type we are learning and practicing on your own, confidently and accurately. You must be able to understand mathematics in later courses, and must learn to read technical material in the world at large. Your textbook is organized to maximize the acquisition of both algebra skills and concepts.

Your first assignment is to read pages 1-2 in your text and answer the questions on page 3.

3. Scientific Calculators

You are expected to use a scientific calculator throughout this course, so it is important that you know how to use one and are familiar with your own calculator. **Your second assignment is to read pages 824-827, study the examples, and use your calculator as you work through each example. After you have finished the reading and practice, answer the questions on pages 827-828.**

4. Scientific Notation

As you have previously learned, scientific notation is use to rewrite very large and very small numbers, and scientific calculators can display numbers in scientific notation. **Your third assignment is to read and study the information on pages 829-832, using your scientific calculator to work through the examples. Answer the questions on pages 832-833 (#30 is extra credit!).**

On the first day of school I will give you a calendar for Chapter I. **We will complete Lessons 1.1-1.3 and have a quiz on these three lessons on Monday, August 24.** The early morning algebra class will also begin on Wednesday, August 19, if you need extra help with any of the assignments or want to go ahead in the chapter.