Course Description

This course will help students make the transition from arithmetic to algebra. The purpose is to pave the way for a progressive mastery of more difficult and complex skills required for the understanding of algebraic concepts.

Teacher Expectations
- Students are expected to come to class prepared. (book, workbook, notebook and pencil)
- Students are responsible for **nightly homework assignments**.
  - Each student receives an assignment book to aid in this process.
  - Homework is checked daily and is worth 2 points.
  - All computations and work must be shown in order to receive credit for an assignment.
  - Students will receive credit for **attempted** problems.
  - Homework Express gives students an opportunity to receive extra credit or free homework passes.
  - Homework will be collected occasionally for a quiz grade.
  - Students who are absent are responsible for collecting missed assignments and worksheets from the homework desk or my website.
  - Make up work is to be turned in as stated in the student handbook.

Grading Policy
- Each nine-week period the student's grade is determined according to the following weighted system: **Assessments (tests, quizzes) – 60%**
  ALEKS online – 20%
  Classwork (homework, projects, etc.) – 20%
- Student's tests are kept in a file that can be signed out at any time and brought home. Parents/Guardians are asked to sign the folder if it is brought home. Tests will not be sent home unless signed out.
- Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student found cheating will receive a zero for his/her work and the student's parent/guardian will be notified.

Behavior
- Students are expected to act in a manner that aids in my ability to teach and your fellow classmates, as well as yourself, to learn.
  - This includes respecting yourself, others and the property around you; coming to class prepared; staying in your seat unless given permission to do otherwise, participating in classroom activities, and following the rules set forth by the student handbook.

I am always willing to provide additional help before, after or during the school day. Math builds on prior knowledge, so it is important to ask for help as soon as you find yourself struggling. I look forward to a productive and rewarding school year.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand this syllabus. If you have any questions please contact me at (724)-458-8040. You may also reach me via e-mail at sara.schenker@gcasdk12.org . A copy of this syllabus will be accessible on my website.

_____   _____   _____
Signature of student   Signature of Parent/Guardian   Date

Test Preparation

- Be attentive in class, take notes, ask questions and complete homework

- Complete Chapter Review and Chapter Test at the end of each chapter. There is also a Cumulative Assessment at the end of each chapter, as well as Checkpoint quizzes throughout each chapter.

- Read over and /or work through the examples in each section of the chapter.

- Work through odd problems from each section of the chapter and check your answer in the back of the text.

- Use KhanAcademy.com to search for relevant videos and practice problems. (Use the title of each section, or the chapter, for your search). After completing each set of problems the website will give you immediate feedback on your performance. This website requires you to create your own account, but you can use it for a wide variety of subjects, not just math!!

- **ALEKS** is the new online component we will be using in our math courses this year. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics she/he is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. If extra practice is needed, you can search ALEKS for those specific topics, just like on the Khan Academy website.