**COURSE SYLLABUS**

2015 – 2016

*“For what it’s worth: It’s never too late to be whoever you want to be. I hope you live a life you’re proud of, and if you find that you’re not, I hope you have the strength to start over.” – F. Scott Fitzgerald*

Teacher: **Mrs. Jessica Furno**

Room Number: **201**

Conference Period: 7th

E-Mail Address: jfurno@coventryschools.org

Classroom website: www.furnocoventrymath.weebly.com

Course Topics

Course topics include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

* Basic Arithmetic
* Solving Algebraic Equations
* Slope-intercept Equations
* Inequalities
* Systems of Equations
* Properties of Exponents
* Quadratic Equations
* Radical Functions
* Rational Functions
* Statistics

Required Supplies

* Loose-leaf Notebook Paper or college ruled notebook
* Organization Strategy of choice (three-ring binder, accordion file, two pocket folder, etc.)
* No. 2 Pencils
* Eraser(s)
* TI-30 Calculator (can be purchased at Walmart and other stores)

Classroom Policies and Procedures

1. Speak and act with respect at all times. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
2. Phones and other technological devices (besides calculators) are NOT permitted unless students are explicitly directed to use them. Phones are NOT to be used as calculators.
3. Raise your hand and wait to be called on when you have a question or comment.
4. If you do not understand, it is your responsibility to ask for help. I cannot read your mind, and therefore cannot answer questions I do not know you have.
5. We tell the truth, all the time, every time.
6. Come to class prepared. This includes bringing materials to class, having completed homework ready to be turned in, etc.
7. Be in your seat and working (if you are given a warm-up task) when the bell rings.
8. Follow directions exactly the first time they’re given.
9. Pick up after yourself and leave your desk/work area cleaner than you found it.
10. Return all borrowed property to the lender.
11. Follow all rules in the student handbook.

Attendance & Tardiness

This course will follow the attendance policies established by Coventry Schools. Tardiness for this class is defined as not being seated in the classroom in your correct seat when the bell rings. See the student handbook for a list of disciplinary actions regarding absences and tardies.  
  
It is the **student’s** responsibility to complete any assignments missed when absent or late. Any worksheets for the day can always be found in the “Missing Something?” filing box on the supplies table. Each day’s agenda is also posted on my class website with digital copies of any files used in class (including notes taken on the board). I will NOT hunt you down about missing work; you are responsible for staying on top of your work.

Discipline Procedures

1. Verbal Warning
2. Note (with parent signature)/Call home
3. A Visit to the Office
4. Scheduled Conference with Parent

*\*These procedures are at the discretion of Mrs. Furno.*

Cell Phones

Cell phone usage in this class *will not be tolerated*. Please note that no verbal warnings are required to be given prior to disciplinary action (including confiscation of the device and having it sent to the office). Please see the student handbook for more details on cell phone policies.

Grading Policy

I follow the 10 pt. scale that has been adopted by the school (that is, A = 100-90, B = 89-80, etc.).

As a math department, we also use weighted grading. This means that achievement grades (typically things that are scored for correctness, such as assessments and projects) make up a larger portion of a student's final score than practice grades (things which are scored for completeness, such as homework or in-class work). Because achievement grades represent scores which demonstrate mastery, they are worth more than scores which are based in rehearsal and study skills. If you pass my class, it should be because you understand algebra, not because you always turn in homework on time!

In regular Algebra I, achievement grades are weighted **65%** and practice grades are weighted **35%**.

In Advanced Algebra I, achievement grades are **70%** of each quarter grade, and practice grades are **30%**.

I do not offer extra credit outside of the occasional bonus question on tests or quizzes.

Assessments & Quizzes

Assessments (tests) and quizzes will be administered on an approximately weekly basis. If a student is absent on an assessment or quiz day, it is their responsibility to approach me as soon as they return in order to schedule their make-up.

**Take quizzes and tests seriously**. Students will not be able to retake assessments or quizzes, and therefore need to be sure to prepare properly beforehand. I am very clear about exactly what is going to be on exams. There are no surprises. It’s your job to make sure that you can answer the questions you know I’m going to ask.

Homework

Homework is always checked for a **5 point practice grade**. In order to receive a full 5 points, students must ***show ALL work***, complete work using the method learned in class, and attempt **every** problem (even if you’re not sure). Work that is copied (or that a student allows themselves to be copied off of) will receive a score of zero which cannot be made up.   
  
Homework can be turned in late for **half credit** up until the end of the unit. If you are absent, homework that is missed during your absence can be turned in for **full credit**. It is a STUDENT’S responsibility to get and turn in absent work with a **fully completed** yellow slip (found in the back pocket of the “Missing Something?” filing box).

Notebook Checks

At the end of each class unit (that is, whenever we take our assessment), I will collect each student’s class notes from that unit and score them for a **10 point** **practice grade**. This will be based on (1) having the notes for each lesson in the unit, (2) having all parts of the notes completed (vocab, examples, etc.), and (3) writing the notes legibly and in an organized fashion (preferably mimicking the way they are written on the board).

Classroom Website

Resources that can be found on this site include:

* Announcements about upcoming school-wide events
* Daily posts about what happened in class, homework assignments, and upcoming assessments
* Important documents and files for saving or printing
* “About the Teacher” section
* Easy-to-use teacher contact form
* Classroom policies and procedures
* Helpful compilation of outside online resources

Should you have any comments or suggestions about what should be tweaked or added to the site, please don’t hesitate to let me know – my goal is to offer as user-friendly of a site as possible!

*\*In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, grade challenges, etc. are welcome. Your discretion in these matters is expected, however. No part of your grade will be based on anything other than your coursework, but it should be remembered that attendance and behavior problems tend to reveal themselves in student coursework.*

*You are encouraged to take advantage of time offered by the teacher for help with coursework or anything else connected with the course and your progress. Please see Mrs. Furno if you would like to plan time for tutoring, group study sessions, or a conference.*

*\*\*\*Please detach this page, fill it out* ***completely****, and return it to Mrs. Furno no later than* ***FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND****. (Please keep the syllabus itself in your math organization system for your own reference –* ***it may be included in your first notebook check!*** *Signature forms which have not been detached from the syllabus will not be accepted.)*

**COURSE SYLLABUS AGREEMENT**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and fully understand the class requirements and expectations given in this syllabus. I have discussed this with my student and I support these policies.*

Please print parent/guardian name

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

*I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and fully understand the class requirements   
and expectations given in this syllabus. I am prepared to abide by these rules and policies.*

Please print student name

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Student Signature Date