

Mars Hill Algebra I Class

2014 – 2015 School Year

Instructor: Thomas F. Coburn, MD
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Time: 8:00 a.m.

Text: Elementary Algebra, by Harold R. Jacobs

Grades: Students' grades will be based on their scores on take-home tests (30%), take-home quizzes (30%), and homework lessons (40%). I will grade or review all homework, quizzes and tests in order to monitor the progress of each student.

Tests: Four tests will be emailed or sent home with the students to be administered by their parents. The tests will be given at the end of each quarter. The tests will take approximately an hour to complete and should be overseen by a parent. The tests will be given on the following schedule:

	<u>Taken Home</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Chapters Covered</u>
Test One	Oct. 13	Oct. 27	1-3
Test Two	Dec. 15	Dec 22 (mail)	4-7
Test Three	Mar. 2	Mar. 16	8-11
Test Four	May 11	May 18	12-16

Homework: We will cover approximately one chapter of material in the book every two weeks. The students will have homework lessons to do each week based on the attached schedule. I may change the schedule if necessary through the year, but I will contact the students and parents by email if this becomes necessary. Each student's time needed to complete the assigned work will vary, but it is my intention that each student should spend 60 to 90 minutes each day, Tuesday through Friday, and be able to complete their homework. If your child is spending significantly more time on their homework, please let me know. Homework should be *neat* and *done in pencil* with **answers circled**. If a parent grades the homework and allows their student to correct their work, please turn in both, but **circle the corrected homework in red** so I can review both the original and corrected work.

Quizzes: I will email quizzes to be taken at home at the completion of each chapter. They will be due the following Monday (generally at the same time the review for the chapter is due).

Office hrs: There will be a help session offered each week, usually during LCF Coop on Thursday (tutored by my wife, Cathy Coburn) at the school building, if needed. Please call or text 338-7771, or email tcoburnmd@gmail.com by Wednesday at noon if you plan to come. If I don't hear from anyone, we won't have the help session that week. I can also answer questions over the phone or by email. Some parents may need to consider having a private tutor for their students if they begin to fall behind or struggle with certain concepts.

General: This is homeschooling. I encourage parents to help their students with their homework. I even encourage parents to have an answer key to help them work with their students (but please do not give the answer keys to your student). I would like to emphasize that the parents should help their students understand concepts as they oversee lessons. If you don't have an answer key, the answers to the Set 2 problems are in the back of the textbook. These problems can be used for practice since they are not part of the regular homework assignment. The students **MUST** show their work so that I can provide **partial credit** and see the types of mistakes that they are making.

NO LATE HOMEWORK OR QUIZZES WILL BE ACCEPTED. I must have all homework by the end of the day on the Monday that it is due (give it to one of my children if I'm not there). The only exceptions are written excuses from a parent, preferably in advance. "I left it at home" is not a legitimate excuse. Unexcused late homework will receive a score of zero.