



SAINT IGNATIUS

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Eighth Grade Algebra Program Handbook

2024 - 2025

Personnel

Cindy Reagan *Department Chair*

creagan@ignatius.edu

Ms. Reagan is in her 18th year in the math department. In addition to being chair, she teaches AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, and Honors Algebra II Trig with Limits. She is responsible for general oversight of the program.

Mark Kaiser '06 *Program Coordinator & Semester 1 Instructor*

mkaiser@ignatius.edu

This is Mr. Kaiser's 15th year at Saint Ignatius. Along with coordinating EGAP, Mr. Kaiser will be teaching Honors Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, and Analysis. He is also the sophomore class moderator. As EGAP program coordinator, he is in charge of organizing all administrative aspects of the program.

John Rowell '11 *Semester 2 Instructor*

jrowell@ignatius.edu

Mr. Rowell is in his 10th year in the math department. He teaches Honors Algebra I, AP PreCalculus, and AP Calculus AB. Mr. Rowell is the head coach for the freshmen soccer team.

Course description

In this course, students will explore the fundamental concepts in Algebra via problem solving, skill building, group work, presentation, and discussion. In short, the topics list includes linear equation and inequalities solving and graphing; an introduction to functions; quadratic equation solving and graphing; systems of equations and inequalities; and rational and radical equation solving. The course is equivalent to the high school's Honors Algebra I.

Intent and purpose

The program was created by the former president of the school, Fr. Bill Murphy, SJ, in 2009 in order to provide Honors Algebra I to Catholic grade school students who may not have that resource available. The course does not charge tuition to any 8th grade Catholic grade school student. There will be a \$50 materials fee. Need-base financial assistance is available.

Policy

Absences

The logistics of the program make it challenging to meet outside of class to catch up or administer make up work. As such, attendance is vital for a student's success. We will allow no more than 5 absences per student per semester (including vacation time). As a student approaches this limit, the parent/guardian will be contacted regarding reasons for the absences and a plan of action going forward.

If a student needs to miss a day, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Planned absences should be sent to the instructor in advance, and absences due to illness should be communicated the day of the absence.

Calamity days

The morning class will not meet on days where the high school calls a calamity day (for any reason). This includes days where the high school has a delayed start, there will be no class. In addition, families will be able to opt in to our Remind app that will generate a text message notification in such cases.

Calendar

The class will meet from 7:00 am to 7:50 am four days per week and will follow the school calendar sent out by Mr. Kaiser with your acceptance email. Mr. Kaiser will provide updates as the year progresses. See below for important dates, off days, etc.:

August 19	First day of classes
August 29	Parent meeting, 6:30 pm
September 2	No class, Labor Day
October 17-18	No classes, Fall Break
November 27-29	No classes, Thanksgiving Break
December 18-19	Semester 1 exam / End of first semester
January 7	Class resumes / Instructor change
January 20	No class, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 14	No class, Faculty Retreat
February 17	No class, President's Day
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 18-21	Easter Break
May 21-22	Final exam/ Last day / end of second semester

Parent meeting

A parent meeting will be held on campus at 6:30 pm on August 29th in Mr. Kaiser's room (Loyola Hall 227). The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the instructors and program coordinator to the families, and to address any questions families have for the staff.

Materials

A TI-84 graphing calculator is required. Students are recommended to have a 3-ring binder to organize materials throughout the semester. The \$50 material fee will cover workbooks for the entire year.

Dress code

Students are expected to follow the dress code of their home school while on our campus.

Tutoring

The student should contact his or her instructor to schedule meetings.

Grades

The instructors will keep an updated gradebook through the Canvas learning management system. Parents/Guardians will be given access to this system at the start of the program. At the end of each quarter, every student's current grade will be reported to his or her grade school. Only a numerical score will be reported; no letter grades will be sent. The usage of this grade from that point forward is up to the grade school principal.

Semester exams

Exams will be given which will cover all material in a given semester. These exams are given over the course of two days and are noted on the calendar above.

Cooperation with grade schools

It is our policy that we will not make recommendations to any grade school regarding grade usage, scheduling, course credit, or any other matters. We will respect and support any and all decisions made by grade school administrators and faculty with respect to the morning course.

Credit Transfer

Every student who successfully completes the program will receive a transcript indicating their grade in Honors Algebra I for each semester and the credits earned. While a student may use the transcript for credit at their future high school, we cannot guarantee, nor do we have any control over, whether or not their high school honors that credit transfer.

For the 8th grade student matriculating to Saint Ignatius High School after their 8th grade year, know that it is the student's option to use the credit and grade. If the student wants to use the credit and grade on their high school transcript at Saint Ignatius the following policies will apply:

- Credit:
 - If the student chooses to ask for credit for the EGAP Honors Algebra I course, the grades for each semester will be calculated into their high school GPA.
- Placement:
 - If a student's second semester EGAP grade is greater than or equal to 80%, they will automatically be placed in Honors Geometry for their freshman year (irrespective of the student asking for credit).
 - If a student's second semester EGAP grade is less than 80%, we strongly recommend the student not ask for credit and instead enroll in Honors Algebra I for their freshman year. In these cases, the students should take our Algebra Mastery Exam to help with placement decisions.