

WELCOME TO  
**ALGEBRA I** at Miss Hall's School  
 2003–2004 Academic Year

INSTRUCTOR . . . . . Dr. Carol J. V. Fisher  
 EMAIL . . . . . [cfisher@misshalls.org](mailto:cfisher@misshalls.org)  
 TELEPHONE . . . . . office: 395–7029  
 CLASS MEETING TIME . . . . . B block (MTThF); C block (MTWF)  
 CLASS MEETING PLACE . . . . . Room 200, Main Building  
 INSTRUCTOR'S SCHEDULE . . . . . see below  
 WEB SITE . . . . . <http://fishcaro.crosswinds.net>

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<i>1st period</i> 8:00–8:50	C Algebra I	A	E HTML	D AP Calculus	B Algebra I
<i>2nd period</i> 8:55–9:45	B Algebra I	E HTML	C Algebra I	9:00–12:30 HORIZONS	A
<i>3rd period</i> 9:50–10:20	School MTG	AP Calculus			School MTG
<i>4th period</i> 10:25–11:15	A	D AP Calculus	A Office Hour		E HTML
<i>5th period</i> 11:20–12:10	F LUNCH	G Precalc H	F LUNCH	1:00–1:25 Adv Mtgs/ Class Mtgs	G Precalc H
<i>6th period</i> 12:15–1:05	G Precalc H	F LUNCH	G Precalc H	B 1:30–2:20 Algebra I	F LUNCH
<i>7th period</i> 1:10–2:00	D AP Calc	C Algebra I	D Office Hour	C 2:25–3:15	D AP Calculus
<i>8th period</i> 2:05–2:55	E HTML	B Algebra I	B	A 3:20–4:10	C Algebra I
<i>9th period</i> 3:00–3:30	(HTML)				

## COURSE DESCRIPTION and PREREQUISITES

**Algebra** involves the representation and manipulation of mathematical information using variables. One theme of Algebra I is the development of tools needed to work with a wide variety of mathematical expressions. To this end, we explore functions, sets, number line concepts, order of operations, percents, ratios, radicals, properties of exponents, scientific notation, polynomial and rational expressions, and factoring. A second theme is the introduction of basic tools for solving equations and inequalities. Central to this task is the study of the addition and multiplication properties of equality. Finally, girls must develop the wisdom to differentiate between renaming expressions and solving equations. A thorough study of lines helps to illustrate the interconnections among the themes. Algebra I is a prerequisite for further study in mathematics.

## TEXTS and SUPPLIES

TEXTS:

**One Mathematical Cat, Please! A First Course in Algebra**, text and web exercises by Carol J.V. Fisher, projects and activities by Pamela R. Walters. This book is in progress. The first part of the book is available now in spiral-bound form at the MHS bookstore. Later on in the year, you will be purchasing additional section materials.

TI-83 GRAPHING  
CALCULATOR

You will need a TI-83 graphing calculator for class, homework, and exams. Calculator skills will be developed throughout the course.

3-RING BINDER  
and DIVIDER SHEETS

A 3-ring binder is required to organize all class materials and to hold the future text sections. Ask Dusty for the Algebra I binder! It has a green insert that says "One Mathematical Cat, Please! A First Course in Algebra". Please make tabs for:

GRADE SHEET

SYLLABUS

TESTS/QUIZZES

## WEB EXERCISES

There are many problems on the web to give you unlimited practice with basic skills. To access these problems, use Internet Explorer as your browser, and follow these instructions:

- go to <http://fishcaro.crosswinds.net>
- click on **Table of Contents**
- click on **Algebra I online problems at Miss Hall's School**

Read the instructions for each problem type carefully. Often you must input your answers in a specified way. You can time yourself, get a summary sheet that shows the average number of seconds per correct problem, and print out randomly-generated worksheets and solutions. These worksheets will often form the basis for timed in-class quizzes.

## **QUICK QUIZZES**

At the beginning of each class, there is a ‘Quick Quiz’ over material from the previous day. This Quick Quiz may be:

- showing me your homework problem(s) from the previous day
- doing one of the assigned homework problems, or a similar problem
- answering a basic question from the previous day’s reading assignment

The Quick Quizzes are graded with a ‘1’ (one point) or an ‘N’ (Not completely correct). Points accumulated on the Quick Quizzes are added into your point total as **BONUS POINTS**. Consequently, they can’t hurt your grade, but can certainly help! There are no make-ups on Quick Quizzes.

An unexcused late causes you to lose a Quick Quiz point.

## **QUIZZES and EXAMS**

Almost every week there will be a 30-point quiz over the material covered since the previous quiz/test.

Also, there will be frequent timed quizzes over basic skills, based on the web exercises.

The homework quizzes comprise a significant part of your course grade. Take them *very* seriously!

There will also be four full-class-period exams, each worth 80 points.

## **LATE POLICY**

Recall that there are no make-up Quick Quizzes. The Miss Hall’s School late policy applies to any other missed work: “A student who has been absent must be prepared to submit all missed classwork within 48 hours of her return. A student should be prepared to take a quiz or test upon her return if the material was covered prior to her absence.” A 10% per day grade reduction (1 point minimum) will be applied to any outstanding work after the 48 hour grace period.

## **EFFORT HONOR ROLL**

A student is voted to the Effort Honor Roll when she has worked consistently throughout the term to be the best student she can be in all of her classes. Any one of the following reasons is sufficient to prevent a girl from receiving a recommendation for Effort Honor Roll: an unexcused absence; non-participation in class; lack of preparation for class; tardiness to class.

## **YOUR NUMBER IS ...**

Your Miss Hall’s locker number is your number for the year. This number should be written on all index cards, tests, and quizzes. Also, your personal folder is identified with this number.

## GRADING

You will accumulate points throughout each term. Here's an example: if there are 870 possible points, and you accumulate 670 points, then your numerical term grade will be determined by computing  $\frac{670}{870}$  and using normal rounding, yielding 77%. Each student is provided with a grade sheet from which you can compute your grade at any time during the term. Here is the approximate point breakdown for each term:

graded item	approximate # of points	approximate % of grade
HOMEWORK QUIZZES	9 quizzes $\cdot \frac{30 \text{ pts}}{\text{quiz}} = 270 \text{ pts}$	31%
BASIC SKILL QUIZZES	about 160 pts	18%
4 FULL-CLASS EXAMS	4 exams $\cdot \frac{80 \text{ pts}}{\text{exam}} = 320 \text{ pts}$	37%
FINAL EXAM	120 pts	14%
QUICK QUIZZES	BONUS POINTS	

Each term, the final exam grade may be used to replace a poor exam grade.

### TERM GRADE:

	$A : [93, \infty)$	$A^- : [90, 93)$
$B^+ : [87, 90)$	$B : [83, 87)$	$B^- : [80, 83)$
$C^+ : [77, 80)$	$C : [73, 77)$	$C^- : [70, 73)$
$D^+ : [67, 70)$	$D : [63, 67)$	$D^- : [60, 63)$
$F : < 60$		

### EXAM DATES and FINAL EXAM DATES:

All exam dates are listed on your Grade Sheets.

**COURSE GRADE:** Your course grade will be the average of the Fall and Spring term grades.