

Algebra I Skills List

The following list outlines the specific **skills** and problem-solving **strategies** we expect Algebra I graduates to have before they proceed to our next course.

The **skills** are broken down by topic and sub-topic. **Strategies** are listed at the end, with the understanding that they will be developed continuously during the study of Algebra I as they are incorporated into various units and assignments.

SKILLS

The Real Number System

- Be able to recognize, give examples, and use . . .
- Properties of real numbers (Commutative, associative, distributive)
- Subsets of real numbers (natural, whole, integer, rational, irrational)

Algebraic expressions

- Substitution and evaluation (with and without calculator), including use of formulas
- Order of operations
- Represent - verbal and algebraic models
- Simplify

Linear Equations

- Solve linear equations (including 2 or more transformations and non-integral solutions)
- Set up and solve word problems of various kinds
- Solve literal equations

Graphing in the Cartesian coordinate system

- Point plotting
- Graph 1 and 2 variable equations
- Create a table of values and graph
- Horizontal & vertical lines
- Intercept method graphing
- Slope-intercept method graphing
- Slopes
 - Calculate from coordinates
 - Plot lines with given slopes
 - Determine slope from graphed line
 - Slope-intercept graphing
 - Point-slope graphing
- Write equations to fit lines
 - Given slope & intercept
 - Given slope & point
 - Given 2 points
 - Given both intercepts
- Transform equations from one form to another
- Fit lines to data
 - By visual approximation from scatter plot
- Read and interpret information from graphs
- Solve problems using Linear Models
 - Construct appropriate equations
 - Evaluate dependent variable given independent variable value
 - Evaluate independent variable given dependent variable value

Systems of Linear Equations

- Solve by any of these methods:
 - Graphing
 - Substitution
 - Linear Combination
- Consistent, inconsistent, dependent systems
 - Parallel & coincident lines
- Applications & word problems (set up & solve)

Inequalities

- Single variable inequalities

 - Solve algebraically & graph on a number line

 - Write inequalities from a number line graph

- Single variable compound inequalities

 - Solve and graph conjunctions & disjunctions

 - Write inequalities from a graph

- Perform problem solving using inequalities

- Graph two variable linear inequalities on the xy -plane

- Graph two variable compound linear inequalities on the xy -plane

Powers and Exponents

- Perform operations using Product, Quotient, and Power properties

- Scientific Notation

- Negative & Zero Exponents

Polynomials

- Add & subtract

- Multiply

- Divide polynomial by monomial (in fraction form)

- Factor

 - GCF

 - Difference of two squared

 - Quadratics trinomial

Quadratic Equations

- Solve by factoring

- Applications

Rational Expressions (both numerical and algebraic)

- Simplify fractions

- Multiply and divide

- Add and subtract

- Write and solve simple rational equations

- Write and solve proportions

- Write and solve percent problems

STRATEGIES

Read, understand, and follow directions accurately

Representation

- Translate expressions and equations from words to algebraic symbols

- Construct expressions and equations from given information

Interpretation

Problem Solving – plan, represent, solve, check/look back

Organizing data & information

- Make a chart

- List information

- Find a pattern

- Draw a diagram

Re-state the problem/look at it a different way

Brainstorm

Identify cases

Guess and test

Checking answers for reasonableness

Checking expressions and calculations for accuracy