



Algebra 1 at Deerstream

Algebra 1 is the foundation of higher-level math. From the course description of Art of Problem Solving: “*A thorough introduction for students in grades 6-9 to algebra topics such as linear equations, ratios, quadratic equations, special factorizations, complex numbers, graphing linear and quadratic equations, linear and quadratic inequalities, functions, polynomials, exponents and logarithms, absolute value, sequences and series, and more!*”

Curriculum: Introduction to Algebra, Art of Problem Solving

Schedule: Algebra will meet on **Thursday mornings from 9:15-12:15** at the Chapel Hill Bible Church each week (minus scheduled breaks) for lecture, explanations, and practice. An optional Zoom session (recorded for those who cannot attend) will be provided midweek for students to ask questions and get help and clarification.

Attendance and Pacing: Each class will cover a large amount of material, so attendance is crucial for student success. Barring exceptional circumstances, students who miss 5 or more sessions over the course of the year will not be assigned a final grade. Students who miss class are expected to make up missed work.

Student Expectations: Algebra 1 is a high school level class, and students must be able to function with high school level maturity in their academics as well as in organization, class participation, and work completion. In class, they will be expected to attend carefully to instruction, participate actively, and take notes as needed. Middle school students may take this course for high school credit provided they display readiness in all areas.

Students are expected to complete 4-5 hours of work at home throughout the week. They will be responsible to check their own answers, identify the need for help, and seek out that help. The ability to work independently and with persistence is a crucial key to success in this course.

Parent Expectations: Parents agree to provide supervision as needed throughout the course. Some students will need more assistance than others. In most cases, parents should be prepared to begin the year with a high level of involvement that may decrease as the year progresses. Parents may purchase a published series of video lectures that will provide review and reinforcement throughout the week if desired.

Prerequisites and Placement: In general, **students entering Algebra 1 should be 12 by August 31.** Students should indicate readiness for Algebra 1 as indicated by the pretest found here: <https://data.artofproblemsolving.com//products/diagnostics/intro-algebra-pretest.pdf>. Rising ninth grade students who need to take Algebra 1 but are not displaying readiness must commit to working through the summer to prepare. **Please consider carefully whether your student is ready for this course, as the annual tuition is nonrefundable. If you are unsure about your child’s placement, contact the instructor before you register.**

Grades and High School Credit: Algebra 1 is a one credit high school level class, so formal assessments will be conducted and students will receive grades that take into account homework, classwork, and tests.