



## Prealgebra (ages 11 and up)

Thursdays, 9:15 AM-12:15 PM AND an Optional Weekly Zoom

The aim of Prealgebra is to solidify the math skills gained in the elementary years and provide students with an excellent foundation for upper-level math. Through teaching, practice, challenge, and creative math application, students will grow in basic skills and develop a growth-oriented mindset about math. *The Art of Problem Solving* Prealgebra curriculum deviates from traditional approaches to math in that it emphasizes the development of math concepts over just getting the right answer. Students who are accustomed to lots of repetitive math exercises will be challenged by the problem-based approach, and a mindset shift is necessary to tackle a more process-oriented approach. We believe the joy of the “Aha!” moments and a deeper understanding of math are well worth the effort.

Of note, this course asks students to approach math in a way that may be new or unfamiliar. **Eleven-year-old students need special permission to take this course. Please carefully consider the nature of this course and your child’s readiness before you enroll, as the annual tuition is binding and nonrefundable. If you have any questions, please consult Kelly Kirk.**

**Text:** *Art of Problem Solving*

**Prerequisites:** We require that parents research this curriculum and have their students complete and submit a [placement test](#) to help determine readiness. Students enrolled in this class must also have a high level of maturity and ability to attend to a teacher, take notes in class, and work cooperatively with peers.

**Student Expectations:** Students enrolled in PreAlgebra are expected to participate actively in class and complete about 4 hours of outside work per week. Students will be responsible to check their own homework and seek outside help as needed. Students will be held accountable to complete all assigned work, to seek help, and to embrace the process of math, not just find the right answer.

**Parent Expectations:** Parents agree to provide supervision and help 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.

**Evaluation:** PreAlgebra students will be evaluated formally and informally. They will receive regular and consistent feedback regarding their mastery of the material.