

Greetings Mathematicians:

Welcome to Algebra II! I am excited to enter my first year of teaching Math at FCS. While this is my first year in my own classroom, I started subbing in Fillmore over my winter break during 2023/2024. After the spring semester, I came back to Fillmore and was asked to fill a math position for the remainder of the year. I graduated from Hornell High School in 2021. At HHS, I was a member of the Football teams, National Honor Society, and National Business Honor Society. After high school, I attended Alfred University where I majored in Mathematics and minored in Adolescent Education while also being a member of the Alfred University Math and Computer Science Club. As a student in both high school and college, I was very busy with school, sports, work, and all other aspects that life throws at young adults. With this in mind, I value the many endeavors you all work hard to be successful in. I am confident that Fillmore is crafting you to be well-rounded individuals.



On a personal note, I still reside in Hornell where I have just purchased my first home. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my loved ones, working out, playing pickleball, and building Legos. When I am not busy with those activities, I enjoy relaxing and watching movies on my couch.

Throughout my schooling, I had my struggles just like everyone else. Failed assignments and tests, nights spent studying until the early hours of the morning, and classes that I was sure I was going to fail. However, these struggles have shaped me into the person I am today and brought me to this point in my life. I share my challenges with you to parallel some of the challenges you may face this year. **Algebra is not an easy course, but by working hard and asking questions, you can achieve success!**

Realize that passing Algebra I is required to graduate from high school. On average, high school graduates make more than \$14,000 per year more than non-high school graduates. With this in mind, I encourage you to view the course as a necessary stepping stone toward a successful future. While it may not come easy to you, realize that I am always willing to support you as long as you are willing to try and ask for help.

Now for some logistical details about the course:

Materials:	Grading:
Pencils	Tests: 55%
3 Ring Binder (At least 2 inches)	Review Quests / Quizzes: 20%
Graphing Calculator (School Issued)	Problem Sets: 20%
Laptop (School Issued)	Class Participation: 5%

Homework assignments may be corrected and resubmitted for partial credit within 1 week of their initial due date. Unexcused late work may be submitted for half-credit within 1 week of the initial due date. Quests will be completed during Math Lab and will be due approximately every three weeks. They must stay in the classroom. If you need more time to complete them, you must arrange to come in outside of your scheduled lab time to complete them. You may not correct

Quests but can get help from me on them at any time before they are due. If you are going to be absent for any reason (band lesson, field trip, illness, etc.) it is essential and **your responsibility** to get any work you are missing before planned absences and immediately following unplanned absences.

Lastly, I encourage you to come to me before school, after school, or during first, sixth, or ninth periods if you are having trouble. We learn by asking questions, so ask them early and often! I look forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Hess

Parents / Guardians: Please sign below indicating that your student has shown you this letter. If you also shoot me a quick email at khess@fillmorecsd.org so I have your email address, I will give them five bonus points. I look forward to working with your kids this year! If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me!

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date