

Greetings Mathematicians:

Welcome back for year two of Algebra I! I would like to acknowledge from the outset your willingness to challenge yourself with a difficult course like Algebra. While I realize many of you may not enjoy math, I cannot stress enough its importance in the real world.

In a conversation with my cousin, he expressed his lack of interest (and even dislike) for math in high school. However, in the very next breath he explained how those same concepts he struggled to grasp in high school were now so essential for him to do his job. He is a feed nutritionist for dairy cattle. He explained to me how critical his knowledge of proportions and ratios were in mixing grain components to maximize high quality milk production in cows.

In a second conversation with a parent of a recent FCS graduate, I was encouraged to hear how prepared his son felt while pursuing a welding degree at Alfred State. This particular student loathed this course when he started with me in ninth grade, and it was a daily grind for him to see how he could possibly use the concepts we were talking about in the real world. However, he stuck with the course. He grew to tolerate it and embrace its worth, choosing to take Algebra 2 with me as a senior. Now he leads his classmates in the welding program at Alfred State through the mathematical components of the course, and credits this Algebra class with setting him on a path that will likely allow him to start out making a salary of over \$50,000 a year plus benefits.

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 easily for 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:

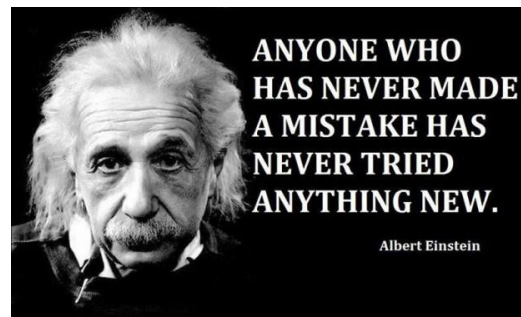
<b>Materials:</b>	<b>Grading:</b>
Pencils 3 Ring Binder (At least 2 inches) Graphing Calculator (School Issued) Laptop (School Issued)	Tests: 55% Review Quests / Quizzes: 20% Problem Sets: 20% Class Participation: 5%

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. They must stay in the classroom. If you need more time to complete them, you must come in outside of scheduled lab time. You may not correct Quests, but can ask me for help on them 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, fifth, or eighth 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. Vosburg



**Parents / Guardians:** Please sign below indicating your child has shown you this letter. If you shoot me a brief email at [jvosburg@fillmorecsd.org](mailto:jvosburg@fillmorecsd.org) so I have your email address, I will also give them 5 bonus points. I look forward to working with your child this year! If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me!

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date