

October 2, 2009

Dear Algebra Families,

We have had a positive start to the Algebra seminar. Despite some technology hiccups and books with missing pages, we are now in full swing. ( If your student has a book with missing pages, we have some nicer ones and are happy to exchange.) Today, October 2<sup>nd</sup> we had our first assessment. It covered most of chapters 1,2,3 and 4. In this seminar model we are able to build upon what is already taught in the Math 8 class and expand where necessary without much repeating or reteaching. That explains why we can be in chapter four in such a short period of time!

After an independent study over the NECAP week, we'll focus on more linear equations - again building on what is happening in the Math 8 classes, where we are looking at Linear Modeling.

During October, we will focus on:

- Equations of a line given slope and one point and two points (Ch5) 10/16
- Solving and graphing inequalities in one dimension (Ch 6) 10/21
- Solving and graphing inequalities in two dimension (Ch 6) 10/30

And in November we will move onto solving systems of equations (Ch 7).

There are two places your student should be visiting on a regular basis: the homework page and the Algebra Moodle. As the year progresses, the Moodle will be the main resource. It will have copies of notes from the seminars, homework answers, extra practice problems, and even some tutorials that can help students further understand a lesson. Before major assessments, the Moodle will be open as a forum for students to "chat" with each other about the topics. If you do not know what a Moodle is, ask your student to show you. We will do our best to post all resources in PDF form, but sometimes that may be impossible.

Assignments are given at the end of Friday seminars. Homework answers are posted on the Moodle by Wednesday afternoon. Students are expected to check all of their own homework and be ready to ask questions in class on Friday. Please continue to help your student arrive ready to learn early on Friday's. We aim to start class promptly at 7:45.

Thank you,

Kathleen Legg & Janet Watts, Algebra Seminar Instructors