

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Welcome to Advanced Algebra & Geometry,

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Yvette Butterworth. This is my second year teaching the Advanced Algebra & Geometry for Roy Cloud and I'm looking forward to another great year!

Here is a little information about my teaching history. I was teaching even before receiving my undergraduate degree in 1993. During the last 2 years of my undergraduate work, I designed and taught classes for college students who did not have the basic skills required to take transfer level math. After graduating and moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, I was hired by Challenger School for an administrative position. During my first months with Challenger, I helped open two new campuses. After helping to open the new schools, I taught middle school science, logic, art/computers and history. Later I taught 1st and 4th grade and while getting my advanced degree, I substituted both on daily and long-term assignments in pre-school through 8th grade classrooms. Once I completed my advanced degree in 1997, I began teaching math at several community colleges in the greater Bay Area. Not only have I taught math in classrooms ranging from pre-school through college, but I also tutor children and adults in math. I continue to teach in multiple college classrooms, run a private tutoring business, advocate for equity for under-represented student populations in community colleges and attend training workshops and classes in acceleration, Common Core, on-line teaching and equity issues.

I have an extensive website and have created a page on my website (<http://www.profbutterworth.com>) dedicated to my Advanced Algebra & Geometry class. You can find the page by going to my website. On my website's menu bar, find the Consulting tab. When you click on the Consulting tab, the menu will expand and you can click on Roy Cloud to take you to the page that I have dedicated to my 8th Grade students. On the Advanced Algebra page I share links and information with parents and students. I can be reached at the email link on my website, but I prefer statsprofbutterworth@gmail.com or by text or phone at (408)888-6160. My preferred form of communication is email and the statsprofbutterworth@gmail.com is the best contact email. I am on the road a lot, traveling between multiple campuses and clients and/or teaching in classrooms or tutoring one-on-one, so I am not available to talk on the phone much of the time. I can, however, fit-in an email while between classes or clients, which makes email the best form of communication.

This is an advanced class and I will expect a much higher level of performance from this group than I would any other 8th grade class. We will be covering sections from our text books at an approximate rate of 3 sections per day. This is a lot to cover, but it is what we need to do in order to prepare the Advanced Algebra & Geometry students for advanced math in high school. If at any time, I feel that a student is not up to this challenge I will initiate a meeting with the administration and parent to discuss what I feel is best for the student's future success. Please remember that my **number one priority** is the success of my students. I do not want any student continuing in an advanced curriculum when that curriculum could possibly lead to a lower self-

esteem and a lower likelihood of future math success. Study in advanced math is not for everyone and there is no shame in beginning high school as a Geometry student. If I should ever have to initiate a conversation about an Advanced Algebra student's continued participation, please re-read this paragraph and keep in mind that I want not only to prepare these students for more advanced topics, but that I truly care about their success and self-confidence as well.

Our coverage will begin with Algebra I. We will review the Algebra I text that the students at Roy Cloud used to use as an 8th Grade math text. We will be covering the topics at a deeper level than what would be covered in a typical 8th Grade class preparing them for deductive reasoning proofs in Geometry and higher level Algebra. By December, we should complete Algebra I and upon return from Winter Break be prepared for the study of Geometry. Our study of Geometry will emphasize higher order thinking as well as the basics of Geometry. When we complete the Geometry, we will begin our study of Algebra II/Trigonometry. How far we get in the last course of study will be determined by student success. If a student desires to start high school at an advanced level (Pre-Calculus or Calculus), Dr. Terri Bittner offers a summer class to finish the Algebra II/Trigonometry text and has excellent rapport with many high schools in the area, which can make it easier to have a student placed in an advanced class. The information for this summer class will be provided after Spring Break if there is interest.

Here are the supplies I believe necessary for the Advanced Algebra Student's success:

Algebra I

3" D-ring Binder
5 Tabbed Dividers w/
pockets
Ruler with inches & cm
Binder paper (not spiral
notebook)
Binder 3-hole punch
TI-83/84 Calculator
Pencil Pouch for Binder
Scissors
Pencils & Erasers
≥ 3 colored pens (blue,
red, green, etc)
≥ 3 highlighters

Geometry

Compass & Protractor
Colored 3x5 Notecards
5 Binder Rings
Fresh supplies as needed
(see Algebra I)

Algebra II/Trig

Text Book
Algebra 2 w/ Trigonometry,
Prentice Hall Classics
Series, Smith, Charles,
Dossey & Bittinger
ISBN#0-13-133798-X

Fresh Supplies as
needed (see Algebra I)

I have a source for rented calculators, but they are \$10 per month which by the time we complete the year will amount to the same cost, \$90, that Target is usually sells (when on sale) the TI-84 Silver Plus Edition with a color screen. Student will need this "expensive" calculator throughout their math career so its purchase is a long-term investment.

The text for Algebra II/Trig, can be purchased on Half.com as a used book for as low as \$9, just keep checking. I bought my last copy of the Algebra II/Trig text, on very short notice, for \$16.95 and it was in perfect condition. We have enough copies for every student, but you may want to purchase a home copy for summer or so students doesn't have to tote another text between

school and home. If a student would like to complete the course over the summer he/she will need the text for use in Dr. Bittner's course, so the text is a long-term investment.

I want give you as much detail as possible about assignments and work load. I have included that information separately in my Assignment Expectations letter. Students will bring a hard copy of this letter home on Monday as well. The Assignment Expectations letter will need to be signed and returned by Wednesday, 8/26.

About Power School – don't count on Power School being updated daily as with the rest of your middle school teachers. Middle school teachers have a computer on their desk and open throughout their day including prep and lunch. I don't have a lunch or a prep period and my computer is at home while I travel to multiple locations to teach. I try my best to input information, but it is not daily. Bear with me. Ask if you are concerned. I have all student information on paper so it is accessible. **Email me** if you don't think things are up to date in Power School and you want a progress report. Students can ask me too! Due dates and progress in class can be accessed on the Google Calendar on my Roy Cloud 8th Grade webpage. You can subscribe to that calendar. I keep it pretty current because I have access through my phone and my iPad (which is my computer in class).

For details about grading policy please see the Grading Policy document. I am emailing this information to you, but you should also expect to receive a hard copy on the first day of class of this Welcome Letter and the Grading Policy. I will ask students to have you sign it and return it Tuesday. Please ask them for the paperwork if you are not presented with the material! This is their first homework assignment!

Sincerely,
Yvette Butterworth
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