

## Food For Thought

Dear Students & Parents

Welcome to Algebra 1!! I'm looking forward to being your teacher this year. I can't wait to get to know each of you as the year progresses.

This year, my goal is to teach you how to *think* and we're going to explore this through the properties of Algebra. In order to help you become better learners we're also going to work on organizational and study skills. Not only will you be learning from me this year, but you will also have the opportunity to learn from your peers as we will oftentimes work in cooperative groups. Groups will change throughout the year and by the end of the year, I'm hoping you'll have had the opportunity to meet and work with people you've never met before.

If you find there is something you don't understand, your most powerful tool to fix this is communication. We cannot read your mind; therefore, you must let me know there is a problem as soon as possible so we can work together to find a solution.

This guide provides you some helpful hints for studying, I've also included some excellent websites that can help you improve your study habits and manage your time. I've also given you some mathematical websites including *Classzone* which is the website for our textbook.

In addition to mathematical information and good study skills, the most important learning tool you have is your attitude. If you can come to class each day with a positive attitude and don't quit when things get difficult, you will have a very successful year. I'm looking forward to a great year!!!

Sincerely,

Ms. Drake



“Today’s preparation determines tomorrow’s achievement”

“The successful man is the average man, focused.”

“Never, never, never give up.”  
- Winston Churchill

“Attitude determines altitude.”

“The only job where you start at the top, is digging a hole.”

“Tell me and I forget; show me and I remember; involve me and I understand.”

“He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.”  
- Benjamin Franklin

“You may be on the right track, but if you just sit there you'll get run over.”  
- Paul H. Dunn

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”  
-General George Smith Patton, Jr.

“I am always doing things I can't do, that's how I get to do them.”  
--Pablo Picasso

“Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, this time more wisely.”

# Algebra 1

## Information Guide for Parents & Students



**Ms. Drake**  
**Mathematics Instructor**  
**North Olmsted High School**

## Mathematics Websites

[www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com) Textbook Web Site

[mathforum.org](http://mathforum.org) Tons of links to anything mathematical. Also features a Problem of the Week

[www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com) This site includes hundreds of pages of math skills, interactive practice, an explanation of the math topic and several challenge games on every page.

[matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/vlibrary.html](http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/vlibrary.html) This is a three-year NSF supported project to develop a library of uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives or concept tutorials.

[www.learner.org/exhibits/dailymath](http://www.learner.org/exhibits/dailymath) At this site, you'll look at the language of numbers through common situations, such as playing games or cooking.

## Study Skills Websites

[www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/stdyhlp.html](http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/stdyhlp.html) study skills—includes online workshops for time management, improving test performance, reading comprehension, memory and study skills.

[www.studygs.net](http://www.studygs.net) Developed at the University of St. Thomas, this site includes help on EVERYTHING—study skills, time management, reading skills, test preparation and so much more.

[www.d.umn.edu/student/loon/acad/strat/testcheck.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/student/loon/acad/strat/testcheck.html) How do you study for a test? Does it work? This site gives you a checklist to see how effective your study habits are.

## Ms. Drake's Website

[www.nohsteachers.info/jdrake](http://www.nohsteachers.info/jdrake) Includes up to date class information including chapter assignment sheets, reviews & handouts.

## Effective Habits for Effective Study

Partially adapted from Steven Covey, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

- **Take responsibility for yourself**  
Responsibility is recognition that in order to succeed you can make decisions about your priorities, your time, and your resources
- **Center yourself around your values and principles**  
Don't let friends and acquaintances dictate what you consider important
- **Put first things first**  
Follow up on the priorities you have set for yourself, and don't let others, or other interests, distract you from your goals
- **Discover your key productivity periods and places**  
Morning, afternoon, evening; study spaces where you can be the most focused and productive. Prioritize these for your most difficult study challenges
- **Consider yourself in a win-win situation**  
You win by doing your best and contributing your best to a class, whether for yourself, your fellow students, and even for your teachers and instructors. If you are content with your performance, a grade becomes an external check on your performance, which may not coincide with your internally arrived at benefits
- **First understand others, then attempt to be understood**  
When you have an issue with an instructor, for example a questionable grade, an assignment deadline extension, put yourself in the instructor's place. Now ask yourself how you can best make your argument given his/her situation
- **Look for better solutions to problems**  
For example, if you don't understand the course material, don't just re-read the material. Try something else! Consult with the professor, a tutor, a classmate, or a study group.
- **Look to continually challenge yourself**

## Who is your instructor?

### Ms. Janet F. Drake

#### Education

B.S. in Education with a Mathematics major and an English Minor in 1988 from Bowling Green State University.

M.A. in Mathematics in 1994 from John Carroll University

Additional graduate course work focusing on the improvement of mathematics instruction in the high school classroom.

#### Experience

Senior High Mathematics Instructor—21 years.

Taught several ACT/SAT Preparation Courses



**Janet Drake**  
MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR

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"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire."

W B Yeats

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