

# Syllabus – Algebra II

## Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience

### 2024-2025



### Instructor

**Name:** Nicholas Hommowun

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### About:

As he begins his ninth year of teaching, this is Mr. Hommowun's third year at CSMB. Mr. Hommowun will be teaching Algebra II and Geometry. Prior to CSMB, Mr. Hommowun taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Carr Lane Middle School in SLPS and taught Algebra I and Geometry at Quincy Senior High School in Illinois. Mr. Hommowun graduated from Illinois College in 2015 with a B.A. in Mathematics and Secondary Education. After school, Mr. Hommowun will be coaching robotics and running a D&D club. In his free time Mr. Hommowun is most often training for an ultra-marathon or playing board games and Dungeon's and Dragons with his friends.

**Room:** 134

**Mentor Group:** Math Intervention

### Course Description

This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, imaginary and complex numbers, quadratics, and concepts that includes the study of trigonometric functions. It also introduces matrices and their properties. The content of this course is important for students' success on both the ACT and college mathematics entrance exams.

### Course Sequence

1. Linear Functions and Systems
2. Quadratic Functions and Equations
3. Polynomial Functions
4. Rational Functions
5. Rational Exponents and Radical Functions
6. Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

### Grading

- 45% Assessments
- 30% Classwork
- 15% Semester Final Exam
- 10% Homework

### Absences

When you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the Team for any recorded videos, missed notes, and assignments. Upon returning, make sure you understand your makeup work and timeline by the end of that day. All missed work and assessments are the student's responsibility to make up. It is the student's responsibility to schedule any missed assessments within a timely manner. If you know that you will be absent, contact Mr. Hommowun in advance.

# Resources

## Learning Resources

When a student is stuck on a particular problem or concept, the following resources are good places to try:

- CSMB Math Tutoring (see below)
- enVision Algebra II aka Savvas Learning
- Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org))
- IXL Math ([www.ixl.com/math/](http://www.ixl.com/math/))
- Delta Math
- CSMB classmates
- Mr. Hommowun

## CSMB Math Tutoring

Starting in September, math tutoring will be available to all Collegiate on Tuesdays after school from 3:30 PM – 5:15 PM. Students must sign up in person. Transportation is available. Additionally, Mr. Hommowun will provide tutoring during mentor period on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

## Mathematical Tools

The following tools do not provide explanations, but they are very useful tools to have available.

[www.desmos.com/calculator](http://www.desmos.com/calculator)

[www.wolframalpha.com](http://www.wolframalpha.com)

[www.geogebra.org](http://www.geogebra.org)

## Electronic Accounts

Students will use the following electronic accounts over the course of the year. There is a possibility that one or two may be added.

- Microsoft Teams, including Microsoft OneNote's Class Notebook
- IXL Math ([www.ixl.com/math/](http://www.ixl.com/math/))
- Savvas Learning (Easy Bridge)

# Assignments Categories

## Assessments (45%)

All formal assessments are to be done independently. This includes common formative assessments, common summative assessments, quizzes, unit tests, and quiz/test retakes.

Each unit will end with a Unit Test. Mr. Hommowun will announce tests at least one week in advance. Please let Mr. Hommowun know at least two days in advance if there is a conflict that would prevent you from taking the test in the scheduled time. Tests will be timed and typically take all of a class period.

## Assessment Retakes

Retakes are encouraged and often recommended as assessments make up 45% of a student's grade. Students will be able to retake during after school tutoring times or during mentor periods. In order to be eligible for a test retake, a student must complete all homework assignments from that unit prior to 8 am of the day the test/quiz was given or before the closing date, whichever happens first.

After completion of a retake, the student's grade will reflect the grade earned on the retake regardless of how the student performed on the initial test. Students are allowed one retake per test/quiz.

## Classwork (30%)

Assignments in the classwork category include but are not limited to written practice, class activities, verbal or written assignments, do now's, exit slips, graded checks and recorded demonstrations. These assignments are expected to be completed in class or within a given period. Assignments in this category will not be given extensions or late credit except for rare circumstances.

If a student is absent on the day of a classwork assignment, they should check in with Mr. Hommowun to see what they can make up. Often times if a student misses class for a legitimate reason, Mr. Hommowun will excuse the student from the assignment. A student who is excused from a classwork assignment can choose to complete the assignment for credit. If they choose not to do the assignment, it will neither help nor hurt their grade. Students are responsible for their grades and must communicate with Mr. Hommowun to know the status of assignments when they miss class.

Graded checks will make up the majority of this category. Graded checks will be given frequently and normally take between 5 and 20 minutes to complete. Questions on the graded check will also be on the unit test. IF a student's score is higher on the corresponding test questions than their graded check grade will be replaced.

## Homework (10%)

Assignments in the homework category are meant to be practice that is completed by students on their own\*. Most of the time any assignment in the homework category should be done at home but if time is given in class to work on the assignment then the student is expected to be doing such. Assignments in the homework category can range from traditional homework, assignments on paper that have several practice problems, to digital assignments such as IXL and SAVVAS.

\* If you work with a trusted peer or tutor, that peer or tutor must realize that helping is not the same thing as answering the problem for you. They should not be providing you with answers or work. Instead, they should guide you towards the answer, similarly to how Mr. Hommowun models in class.

### Homework Expectations

- The student must show all work. The work must be the student's own work.
- An assignment will be marked as incomplete if there are any questions not answered. **Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0% and not count towards eligibility for retakes.**
- If a student is absent, they are still expected to complete that day's assignment.
- Homework is expected to be completed by 8 am of the next Monday (A day classes) or Tuesday (B day classes). This is the due date. Any assignments completed after the due date will be graded at 80%.
- All assignments will close at 8 am the following Monday or Tuesday (respectively). Any assignments submitted after that will not receive credit.
- Students that complete an assignment after the due date **must** send Mr. Hommowun and email notifying him of the completion, otherwise it will not be graded or considered "submitted". The date the student email's Mr. Hommowun will be the submission date.

### Options for homework submission by instructor preference:

1. Write work and answers in OneNote using the drawing tool.
2. Write work and answers on an organized, separate sheet of paper. Upload a picture or PDF of the work and answers into OneNote.
3. Write work and answers on an organized, separate sheet of paper. Upload a picture or PDF of the work and answers into Teams.
4. Other options can be available if a student explains their specific situation.

### **Mr. Hommowun's grading:**

After the due date, Mr. Hommowun will begin grading and looking for student success, mistakes, and misconceptions. He will use this for purposes of grading, providing feedback to students, and informing instruction.

Any assignments turned in after the due date but before the closing date will still be graded but may not be graded as quickly. Some assignments Mr. Hommowun will assess and provide feedback on all the problems while on other assignments Mr. Hommowun may not provide feedback at all.

### **Semester Exams (15%)**

Semester Exams will be timed, cumulative, and scheduled by the school.

## **Classroom Expectations**

Mr. Hommowun's classroom expectations can be simplified down to students and teachers being respectful to each other at all times and practicing strong communication skills. Below are explanations of what this mean in Mr. Hommowun's class. These are specific classroom expectations to help students and parents navigate this school year.

### **Respect**

Respect is essential to the creation of a positive learning environment. Student to student, student to teacher, and teacher to student disrespect will not be tolerated in Mr. Hommowun's classroom. Each individual in the classroom is on their own journey to success and should be given the respect to get their when they do. Disrespect to others (or even yourself) can hinder learning and deprive individuals from reaching their fullest potential academically and emotionally.

Students and teachers should have respect for each other's academic, physical, and emotional needs. Below is an example (not an exhausted list) of how students and teachers can be respectful in the classroom.

Students	Teachers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will use school appropriate language at all times. This language will be constructive and positive towards other students and to themselves</li><li>• Students will allow other students to learn during lessons by staying quiet and on task.</li><li>• Students will not rough house or play in the classroom.</li><li>• Students will respect each other's mistakes and misconceptions as we all learning.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Hommowun will provide feedback on assignments and assessments in a timely manner. This feedback will be constructive and positive.</li><li>• Mr. Hommowun will help keep the class on task so students can learn.</li><li>• Mr. Hommowun will facilitate a safe space for students to ask questions and get clarity on misconceptions.</li><li>• Mr. Hommowun will respect students' needs and do his best to differentiate lessons to help each individual.</li></ul>

## Communication

Just as it is Mr. Hommowun’s job to communicate each lesson and expectations effectively to his students, students are expected to communicate effectively with each other and their teacher. Proactive communication can help avoid stressful situations and keep a positive classroom environment. Great communication will help Mr. Hommowun teach you and your classmates as well as encourage an environment of flexibility and growth. Poor communication, such as lying or negligence, can create a stressful environment where expectations and needs are left unmet.

It is important for Mr. Hommowun and his students to remember that the conversations and vocabularies that are appropriate for home and social events may vary from the appropriate conversations and vocabularies that are to be used at school. Vulgar and offensive language, intentional or accidental, will not be tolerated at school or in Mr. Hommowun’s classroom. As high school students, warnings should not be needed. Great communication requires the knowledge of “what” topics are appropriate and when to converse about those topics.

Lastly, we live in an ever-changing world where students and teachers might have changing needs from day to day or even period to period. Health and wellness are more important than academics. As we go through this school year together it is important to communicate life changes and difficulties so that Mr. Hommowun can support each student in a method that best fits the individual’s need. All students and parents are encouraged to reach out to Mr. Hommowun via email, teams or phone about the life events that may influence a student’s academic, social, or personal needs.

Below are some examples (not an exhausted list) of how students and teachers can communicate in a strong and efficient matter.

Students	Teacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students should communicate absences with Mr. Hommowun ahead of time if possible. If not, Students should communicate with Mr. Hommowun via email or teams, or find Mr. Hommowun on their first day back to school.</li><li>• Students will not use offensive or negative language in class, whether it was intentional or not.</li><li>• Students who are feeling stressed should reach out to Mr. Hommowun for support, intervention, or simply to let him be aware of what stressors are present in the students life.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Hommowun will communicate with students the expectations of all assignments, due dates, and classroom rules/procedures.</li><li>• Mr. Hommowun will use language that promotes learning and positive growth.</li><li>• Mr. Hommowun will communicate when he is having a rough day or stressed out so that students can respect his emotions and needs.</li><li>• Mr. Hommowun will send out class updates at least once a month to all parents pertaining upcoming assignments, assessments, and happenings in the classroom.</li></ul>

## Other Expectations and procedures

### Academic Integrity/Cheating

Plagiarism (intentional or not) and cheating will not be tolerated for any assignments this year. All of the following will be done any time a student cheats or is caught trying to cheat. Consequences will escalate each time a student is found cheating. Please see the Student Handbook for escalating consequence.

- Zero on assignment
- Parent notification
- Referral to administration
- Conference with teacher

## **Bathroom/Hallway Policy**

Students will not be able to leave the room during the first or last 10 minutes of class.

Just like absences, a student cannot participate in a lesson if they are in the hallway or the bathroom. Unless under special circumstances, Mr. Hommowun will not be sending kids out of class during whole-group lessons. Students who are working and productive in class may ask to use the restroom at the appropriate time.

To leave the classroom students will need to have their passport with them and have it signed before walking out of the classroom.

If a student is looking to talk to Mr. Hommowun when it is not during their class period, they will be required to have a signed passport from whatever class they are coming from. Students without a signed passport will not be permitted into the classroom.

## **Entering/Exiting the Classroom**

Mr. Hommowun firmly believes the first 10 minutes of class are the most important 10 minutes of the whole period. A class that enters properly and gets to work shows Mr. Hommowun that learning will happen and students are ready to give their best. A class that enters and is unfocused shows a lack of ambition and productivity.

Students are expected to enter the classroom in a professional and appropriate manner. “Rough housing” and “horse play” should end before entering the room. Students are expected to enter the room, go to their assigned seat, and follow any instructions posted on the board. This could be instructions on supplies they need or a specific do now problem. By the time the bell has rung students should be seated and working or else will be marked tardy. Students will not be given extra time for a do now if they are tardy unless they have a signed pass from a staff member.

Prior to leaving the classroom, the area around the student’s desk should be cleared of clutter and mess. Only when this is completed for all students will they be dismissed.

Students should never be in Mr. Hommowun’s room if he is not in the room.

## **Extra Credit**

Mr. Hommowun will give minimal to no extra credit in his class. It is expected that students do their required work and ask for help if they do not understand. Students should not ask for extra credit, as it will not be given. As assessments are 45% of a student’s grade, the best way to improve a student’s grade is to prepare properly for every test or quiz and retake within a timely manner if they scored less than they desired.

## **Food/Drink**

Food and drinks will not be tolerated in Mr. Hommowun’s classroom. If a student has food or a drink outside of their backpack they will be asked to throw it into the trash. The only exception is water that is in a sealable bottle. If there are any medical needs or special requests please communicate them with Mr. Hommowun so we can properly address each individual’s needs.

## **Preparedness**

Each and every day students are expected to bring their district issued technology, a notebook, and at least one pencil to class. In addition to having their supplies, students are expected to be on time to class. **Being on time to class means seated and following any instructions on the board before class starts.**

Students will need the following items for class. Anything with an (\*) is recommended but not required.

- District issued technology
- A spiral notebook or a binder with paper
- Pencils with erasers – Assignments in pen will not be given credit.
- Colored pencils\*/colored pens\*
- Loose paper (lined and/or blank)\*

### **Phone/Headphone Policy (Student Handbook)**

Cell phones and Smartphones are to be silenced during the academic day. Students' cell phones and air pods (headphones) may not be out while in class. These devices should be in the students' backpack, fanny packs, or purses in class. Students may only use their phones during breakfast, lunch, and during passing periods in the hall, cafeteria, and Perch areas.

Per St. Louis Public Schools' Code of Conduct, the "use of cell phones, electronic cameras and electronic communication devices must be authorized by school staff. Unauthorized use of cell phones, cameras and electronic devices may result in confiscation or search and seizure of the item. Items confiscated will only be returned to parent(s)/guardians after meeting with school officials within a reasonable time frame. The district is not liable for the devices brought in violation of district policy and confiscated in accordance with the same.

Students are prohibited from taking pictures, video, or audio of other students and staff. Doing so violates the privacy rights of other students and staff and is subject to discipline pursuant to district policies on acceptable use and the Family Education Right and Privacy Act (FERPA). “

The following consequences will be assessed if a student violates the any of these rules for phone usage:

- 1st offense     Warning by staff and/or administration
- 2nd offense     Confiscation of phone by an administrator, call home, and parent meeting
- 3rd offense     Discretion of the Assistant Principal or the Principal, including suspension

***Students should never take pictures, record video or audio on the campus of Collegiate without permission from a teacher or an administrator.***

### **Student Non-negotiables (Student Handbook)**

1. **Embody the Core Values of Collegiate at all times.**
2. Be on time to class. Every class every day.
3. Engage in respectful conversations.
4. Profanity is never tolerated under any circumstance.
5. Cell phone usage and headphone usage are prohibited during class. This includes mentor/study hall.
6. No eating or drinking during class time. Only water is permitted in class.
7. Uniforms are to be worn in entirety every Monday-Thursday. Fridays are College attire or spirit attire permitted with uniform pants, shorts, or skirts.
8. Passport is required to leave class with permission
9. Students must complete and submit their own authentic work.
10. Students submit 100% of assigned work.
11. Students must advocate for themselves.
12. Privileges can be removed for violating the Student Code of Conduct and not adhering to Collegiate's Core Values.