Course Description and Overview: Welcome to Algebra! Our class will meet first period on Tuesday through Friday in UH204. I am looking forward to an exciting year learning algebra and learning how using algebra can help us solve mathematical problems. In our classroom, I want an atmosphere of respect in which you and I are always on task, and ready to learn. I want an atmosphere in which we can make mistakes and learn from them.

This course will cover: operations, variables, functions, equations, inequalities, exponents, graphing, quadratics, etc. It forms the basis of almost all topics covered in higher-level math courses.

Equipment Needed

- Textbook: *Algebra I* by Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff (McDougal Littell)
- A section in your 3-ring binder (or a folder) labeled “Algebra” or a separate 3-ring binder for algebra. Keep your work organized with sections for HW, tests and quizzes, and class work.
- Pencils, a ruler, and a TI-84 graphing calculator
- A supply of loose-leaf paper and graph paper (4 or 5 squares per in on the graph paper)

HINTS FOR SUCCESS:

1) Get extra help early and often! I am available for help outside of class. You are welcome to make an appointment during a free period or just come in. Available periods: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8.

2) Find others to work with. A study group can provide welcome support.

3) Ask questions in class. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Participate in all-class activities.

4) Do your homework daily. After class, go over your work again to make sure you got all your questions answered and have corrected any homework errors.

5) Class materials, including the course description and overview, assignment sheets, and handouts will be posted at http://people.ucls.uchicago.edu/~jscroll/

6) Stay organized! Notes, homework, tests, and quizzes make excellent study guides, but only if you can find them!
GRADING:

Homework: Homework will be collected every day and will be worth up to 2 points. Show all your work in order to earn full credit. You are also expected to make corrections to your homework when we go over it in class. No credit will be given for late homework unless the lateness is due to an excused absence. Periodically there will be additional, longer-term assignments, which will be collected and graded on a different scale.

Additionally, homework should be labeled correctly. Your name, the assignment number, and the section number should be written in the top, right-hand corner of each assignment. Homework not labeled correctly will not be graded.

Quizzes and Tests: Quizzes and tests are usually announced on the assignment sheet. There will be a Final Exam that covers the entire course in June. No equipment (calculator, straightedge, ruler, etc.) may be shared during a test or quiz.

Grades: Your quarter grades will be figured based on the percentage of total points you have accumulated on assignments, quizzes, and tests.

Overall grade for the year: There will be a cumulative final exam given in June. Your grade for the course will be based on your total points accumulated for the year. There will be a final exam, which will count for about 15% of the final grade and will be reflected in the third quarter grade.

Class participation: This includes punctuality, readiness for class, and participation in discussions. Your performance in these areas will be considered in your grade, particularly when the grade is on the border between two grades, such as A-/B+ or B-/C+.

Grading Scale: A: 90 – 100%, B: 80 – 89%, C: 70 – 79%, D: 60 – 69%, F: 59% and below.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance in this class is essential to your success. Many activities cannot be reproduced outside this classroom, and you will miss out on important learning when you are not here. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate and discuss with your teacher what work you missed and when it is due. Homework, tests, or quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence will be scored as a 0. If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you should see your teacher on the day you return to school (whether or not your class meets.) You are expected to make up missed tests and quizzes on the day that you return to school.