

2010–2011 Geometry 1/2 Syllabus

Mr. Michael Ferraro
Balboa High School, Room 319

1 Course Description

Geometry 1/2 is a one-year study of shapes and their properties; logic and reasoning; proofs; and trigonometry. Much of what is included is derived from Euclid's *The Elements*, a 13-book text written around 300 BCE. The contents of Geometry 1/2 adhere to the standards established by the state of California.¹

The course has been divided into the following units of study.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Basics of Geometry | 7. Transformations |
| 2. Logic and Reasoning | 8. Area |
| 3. Constructions | 9. Right Triangles |
| 4. Triangles | 10. Similarity & Trigonometry |
| 5. Polygons | 11. STAR Review |
| 6. Circles | 12. Fractals, Flatland, and Pascal's Triangle |

2 Resources

2.1 Textbook

The course textbook is *Discovering Geometry* by Michael Serra. Once you're issued a textbook, you should take it home — and leave it there until you're asked to return it in May/June! If you lose the book, you will be responsible for the replacement cost.

2.2 Extra Help

When you're having difficult with the material (or if I let you know that you're struggling), you should come in for extra help. You have two options for help:

- *My Extra Help:* I give extra help during most lunch periods and on certain days after school. I try to offer afterschool help sessions on days before tests.
- *Math Department Extra Help:* The BHS Math Department has extra-help sessions twice a week — and snacks are served! The sessions are on Mondays and Thursdays, immediately after school, for one hour.

¹For details on the standards for Geometry and other courses, visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprints.asp>.

2.3 Course Website and Email List

In addition to information made available on the School Loop website², materials are available from the course website at <http://feromax.com>.

I use email lists to communicate with students and parents. The purpose of these lists is to provide information about upcoming tests, send reminders, give clarifications about homework, etc.

If you do not have access to a computer at home, I have computers in my classroom that may be used during lunch and after school. In addition, you have computer access at the San Francisco Public Library branches.³

3 Teacher's Expectations

I expect you to be a responsible student! In class, that means that you arrive ready to learn, take notes, ask questions, and participate in a positive manner. Outside of class, being responsible means that you do your homework, prepare for quizzes and tests, and attend extra help when needed.

- **Respect:** It is very important that you always respect your classmates, your teacher, and yourself. Some of you will learn as much about citizenship this year as you will about mathematics. You must never be abusive of anyone else, either physically or verbally. I also expect you to have self-respect: respect for your own abilities and talents, and your ability to grow.
- **Integrity:** I value integrity and honesty in my students. You'll find that honesty goes a long way with me. (§7 on page 4 describes the course's academic honesty policy.)
- **Effort:** I have high expectations of you! When class begins, you're expected to do the Do Now problem(s). If you don't know how to do the problem(s), it is your job to write the problem down and to ask your neighbors if they can assist you. (Yes, it's OK to ask for help!) When I'm teaching, you're expected to be taking notes. If I see that you're talking, not paying attention, reading a magazine, etc., when I'm expecting you to be working, I'll remind you that you're not meeting my expectations.
- **Attendance:** In a math class, where material taught on any given day may require that you understand material presented on the prior day(s), it is crucial that you attend class — on-time and ready to learn — every day. **If you're absent, you must:**
 - **bring a re-admit slip from the Attendance Office** (so make sure you have a note from home),
 - **copy a classmate's notes**, and
 - **make up any homework you missed.**

Failure to do some or all of the above may result in the absence being unexcused, a lowered participation grade, and/or parental contact.

If you miss class due to being in the Tardy Room, I expect you to come to my classroom during passing time, lunch, or immediately after school to get the homework assignment and

²See <http://schoolloop.com>.

³See <http://sfpl.org> for details about branch location and hours.

any handouts you missed. You need to copy a classmate's notes and consider coming in for extra help, too.

If the period you miss happens to be during a quiz or test, you must see me ASAP to arrange a time to make up the assessment. Be warned: If this happens more than once, you might not be allowed to reschedule the missed assessment. **Failure to come talk to me after missing an assessment may result in an F (0%) grade on that assessment, which will significantly reduce your overall grade.**

4 Grading

Your overall marking period grade is determined by the categories and weightings given below.

- **Assessments (60%):** Quizzes are worth ≈ 50 points, tests are worth ≈ 100 points, and hybrid quiz-tests (*quests*) are worth ≈ 75 points. Your assessments grade is determined this way:

$$\text{Assessments Grade} = \frac{\Sigma(\text{quiz, test, \& quest grades})}{\Sigma(\text{total points possible})} \times 100\%$$

- **Homework (20%):** Homework is assigned on most class days (excepting test days). During the Do Now, I check each student's homework to see whether enough effort was put into it. You will be given full credit (100%), half credit (50%), or no credit (0%). If you get half or no credit, you'll be given the chance to show me that assignment by next class to get half credit added back. However, if you make a habit of having to make up homework credit, you might not be given that opportunity anymore!

Homework Requirements: Your homework must be sufficiently neat (i.e., I have to be able to read what you wrote), include diagrams (yes, you have to copy the diagrams you're working with from the book!), and have final answers boxed so that I can find them quickly.

- **Participation (20%):** If you're on time to class, come prepared (with a pencil, your binder, etc.), take notes, pay attention, ask questions, and don't misbehave, you'll get a 100% participation grade for that day. If you're late or cut, act inappropriately, don't come prepared, then your participation grade for that day is lowered. These daily grades are averaged together for your marking period participation grade.

5 Making Up Test Credit

In the event you do poorly on a test, you have the option to make corrections to problems you got wrong. On looseleaf paper, you must write out each problem for which you lost credit and write out a complete solution. Since you lost points the first time around, I'm not expecting that you'll magically know how to do the problem correctly when you start making corrections. That is why I expect you to come in for extra help to work on your corrections. Do not simply copy another student's work (see §7)! If you correct all problems perfectly, you may receive up to 15% added to your original score, but your new score may not exceed 80%.

6 Food and Drink

Neither food nor drink is permitted in my classroom with the following exceptions:

- Water bottles are fine – so long as you don't spill and keep the water away from the computers!
- If you have my class for the first period of the day, you are encouraged to take advantage of the Grab 'n Go Breakfast program. If you are eligible for free or reduced lunch, you may be able to get breakfast for free or a reduced price. Otherwise, the cost is \$1.
- You may eat healthy snacks anytime. Just make sure you clean up after yourself!

7 Academic Honesty

Balboa High School takes academic honesty very seriously! If you commit an act of academic dishonesty, you will be given a reduced grade (usually an F) and a parent/guardian may be contacted. The Counseling Office is asked to keep track of these events so that repeat offenders are dealt with more severely. Note that colleges you apply to later may learn of these offenses and deny you admission — so do the right thing!

In general, academic dishonesty involves passing off someone else's work as your own. If you copy someone else's homework or test answers, that's taking credit for the work someone else did. If you have someone else do work for you, that's academic dishonesty. There are many examples and I won't outline them all here. After all, I trust that you are able to tell what's honest and what's not.

Did you know that, in post-secondary school settings (e.g., college), being caught committing an act of academic dishonesty is sometimes punishable by expulsion?

