

Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR) – Course Syllabus

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Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 school year. My name is Wayne Christmas and I am your child's Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR) teacher. I am very excited about having your student in my class this year. I know we are all going to have a wonderful time together. I look forward to a great year at Hutto!

About Me

I have been teaching for 14 years as a math educator, the last 6 years here at Hutto High School. I am currently the department chair of the math department and have had the opportunity to teach Algebra 2, Business Statistics, PreCalculus, PreAP PreCalculus, PreAP Algebra 2, and Advanced Quantitative Reasoning here at the High School. I am the math honor society sponsor as well a coach of the UIL Mathematics Calculator team as well.

Advanced Quantitative Reasoning

Advanced Quantitative Reasoning is a "hands-on" course in which the students and instructor will take a problem-based approach to exploring math used in relative and real-world settings. Students will be required to work in partnerships and/or groups to investigate the curricular questions posed in the classroom. They will draw on skills acquired in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2, to investigate these real-world situations and apply them. They will be required to present findings that they have concluded based on this exhaustive investigative process. The culmination of these investigations will be mini and major projects that will have to be presented to the entire class for review. Students will be required to actively participate in these projects and their presentations.

In my class, students will be expected to think deeply, communicate well, and solve challenging problems that require them to extend basic knowledge. Occasionally students will struggle with mathematics. These struggles are a healthy part of your student's intellectual growth and development, much like strenuous exertion is part of physical growth and development. As they face and overcome these challenges, they will become more adept, independent problem solvers. Just remember that failure is not fatal. Success in AQR requires students to incorporate previously taught skills in order to solve complex, real world, mathematical problems. My goal in teaching AQR is not only to have your student walk away with a strong foundation on which he/she is going to build the rest of his/her educational career, but also to make him/her a proficient critical thinker. This ability to think critically will be an invaluable skill necessary for a life outside of school. Though AQR does not have an EOC, this course is designed to prepare students to be successful on all college and career readiness exams (SAT/ACT/TSI), as well as continued mathematical success after high school.

Supplies ***bring to class daily***

Composition Notebook (80 plus pages)
Pencils with erasers.
Colored pens (preferably black and red)
Graphing Calculator (TI-84, optional)
Graphing Paper

General Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Be in class on time
- Bring supplies to class daily
- Respect others values and thought
- Participate in class learning
- Obey all classroom and school rules

Google Classroom Join Codes - [Link to Google Classroom \(https://classroom.google.com/\)](https://classroom.google.com/)

Please join the class that you are assigned to on your class schedule in our Skyward gradebook system.

- ☐ 4th Period: stpizzo
- ☐ 6th period: 5gceg5x
- ☐ 7th period: 2yme5rz
- ☐ 8th period: w6an5me

Definitions of Asynchronous & Synchronous Learning

- ★ *Synchronous Learning* - Two-way real time/live communication between teacher and student. Texas Education Agency
- ★ *Asynchronous Learning* - "Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning..." - Texas Education Agency

Virtual Classroom Expectations

- ★ *Student Expectations*
 - Be respectful of all students, staff members and professionals who are either participating or contributing to the online classroom learning environment.
 - Students will be expected to follow and adhere to all rules and regulations as stated in the HHS Student Code of Conduct.
 - Students who are deemed as "disruptive" to the synchronous learning environment, will be immediately removed from the session and subject to disciplinary actions as prescribed in the HHS Student Handbook.
 - Students will be expected to be **on-time** for synchronous online classroom activities and assignments. This is mandatory. Failure to do so may result in a student being recorded as tardy/absent for that day.
 - All communications on Google Classroom will be treated in the same manner as in person classroom communications. Any language that is deemed inappropriate will be reported to administration for investigation and possible disciplinary action.
 - All work is due at the time designated in Google Classroom. ***This is for both synchronous and asynchronous learning.***

Technology Expectations

When working within the virtual classroom (Google Classroom) students are expected to adhere to the following expectations:

- Students must use their HHS Google email account to log into Google Classroom or a Google Meet virtual session. Any other email account will not be allowed access.
- Login credentials must not be shared. Sharing of login information violates other students' and teachers' rights to confidentiality, and could allow class participation by unauthorized persons and/or lead to disruptive behaviors that detract from a productive and positive learning environment.
- Problems with school issued equipment should be reported immediately to Hutto ISD technology department. The course instructor should be notified via email about the technological issues as soon as possible so that alternative measures can be taken.

Grading Policy

Daily Assignments and Homework: 45%

Major Assessments (tests and projects): 55%

Semester Exams: 15% of total grade



Homework

A homework assignment is any daily assignment that is given solely to be done at home or any assignment that was assigned in class but was not completed and given extra time to finish at home. Homework makes up 45% of the six week average. Homework is considered late if it is not turned in by the prescribed due date.

Tests

Based on the evolution of Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and its requirement for students to perform at a level that deems them college ready, we have adopted a curricular philosophy that students participating in mathematical courses on campus will be required to take assessments that contain a calculator and non-calculator portion to it. This initiative by the Math department has been undertaken to better prepare our students for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI-A) and our continuing goal of preparing students for post-secondary success. Assignments deemed tests will count cumulatively as 55% of the student's grade in conjunction with projects completed in the course.

Late Work

An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted during class the day it is due. A max of 70% can be earned on a late assignment if it is received within **three** school days after the original due date and has been completed with a good faith attempt and is 100% complete. When a student submits an assignment late, the student has **forfeited the opportunity to recover** the assignment.

An assessment (ex. a project, take home test, etc.) is considered late if it is not submitted on the due date. Students will be allowed to make-up the assessment, for a max of a 70, and the teacher will provide the assessment make-up criteria and timeline. Students who have an excused absence on the day the assessment is due must submit the assessment the day they return.

Recovery of Daily Assignment

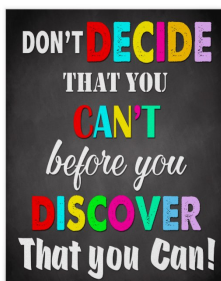
Students will be given **three** school days from the time grades are posted on Family/Student Access to recover a daily/homework failing grade (69% or below). In order for a student to recover a failing daily/homework assignment, the student must have made a good faith attempt on the original submission and on the recovery submission. Recovery assignment grades will be awarded according to individual course criteria. The instructor will choose one of the following methods for the student to demonstrate mastery: providing an alternative assignment or allowing for corrections on the assignment

Retesting

The student must complete all of the following actions before they can retest:

- Must attend tutoring prior to retest for reteach
- Must complete all missing homework/daily assignments prior to retest; no grade will be awarded
- Must correct the original test prior to retest

After a student has satisfactorily completed these actions, they may retest. They must retest prior to the next assessment administration. Semester final exams are not subject to retesting. Recovered assessments are eligible to receive a maximum grade of 70%.



Attendance Statement: Students are required to attend class virtually every day. A student who does not log in and complete work by 4 p.m. will be counted absent that day. Repeated absences will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to loss of credits, makeup hours and truancy court. Students are expected to be online every day.

Absences

Any work that was due the day of the absence is due at the beginning of the period upon return. The student has as many days as he/she was absent to turn in any work assigned during the absence. This applies to all assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for completion of any and all makeup work. If a student was only absent on the day of a test or quiz, he/she is expected to arrange with the teacher a time to make up the test or quiz.

Tardies

A student who is tardy to class will be assigned to detention according to our school tardy policy. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, including but not limited to Saturday School, ISS, or suspension. Students are expected to be in class, on time.

Academic Honesty and Dishonesty

I firmly believe that collaboration and discussion about mathematical topics is the best way to learn it, and I strongly encourage it in my classroom. It is very difficult to learn and understand mathematics if it is done in isolation. However, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic Dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an assignment or examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to academic and/or disciplinary consequences.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- taking someone else's assignment or portion of an assignment and submitting it as one's own
- submitting material written by someone else or rephrasing the ideas of another without giving the author's name or source
- presenting the work of tutors, parents, siblings, or friends as one's own

Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- in any way duplicating assignments which are turned in, wholly or in part, as original work
- exchanging and/or providing assignments with/to other students, either handwritten or computer generated, whether it is believed they will be copied or not
- giving or receiving answers during tests or quizzes (It is the student's responsibility to secure his or her papers so other students will not have the opportunity or the temptation to copy.)
- accessing a test or quiz for the purpose of determining the questions in advance of its administration

*****This policy pertains to all school-related tests, quizzes, projects, reports, homework assignments, or in-class assignments. No assignment is exempted from this policy.*****

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

If a student is caught plagiarizing, cheating, or engaging in academic dishonesty, the following will occur:

- The teacher will explain to the student the nature of the offense and its consequences.
- The student will earn a zero for the assignment and will not be allowed to recover the assignment.
- The teacher will contact the student's parents.
- The teacher will inform the grade level administrator by writing a referral.
- The grade level administrator may extend the consequences within the range defined by HISD Student Code of Conduct.

Tutoring Times

My tutoring times are included below. I will have a tutoring schedule available to the students in my classroom and on my website. The students also are able to attend tutorials with any math teacher. Students need a pass to come to any of our tutoring sessions. Passes are available in the classroom. Without a pass, a student will not be allowed into the academic wings of the building.

Tutorial Times:

- Tuesday & Thursdays - 4:15pm to 4:45pm (Virtually)
- Wednesdays: 7:50 am to 8:20 am (In person)

***Tutorials are subject to change.

Contact Information

If you have any concerns about your child or any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me by email or by phone. I check my email daily. If you leave a message on my phone, I will return the call as soon as possible. My contact information is as follows:

Email: wayne.christmas@huttoisd.net Phone: (512) 759-4700, ext. 6098

