Dear Parents,

In an effort to open up communication lines, we are offering this document to help answer some of the questions you may have and alleviate concerns.

- Resources that are always available to you:
  o Phoenix: current grade and missing assignments; note teachers have 10 school days to update grades; summative scores make up 90% of report card grades; formative scores make up 10%
  o Website Resources (see below): copies of notes, presentation charts, homework, and upcoming important dates
  o Videos: recorded class lessons

- Your child’s grade:
  o The Algebra 1 difficulty level is consistent with LCPS and VDOE standards and pacing for a high school course and is more complex than middle school level math classes. Each concept builds on the last, and all skills must be strong; the lack of mastery of previous skills may affect the grade. If prerequisite skills coming into the class are weak, this will further impact the grade.
  o Geometry builds on Algebra 1 material so prior weaknesses in Algebra 1 will be reflected in grades.
  o If your child has a poor grade, verify that they have completed all assignments on time and have come for extra help (on days described below). Please also encourage them to ask questions in class.

- Extra help:
  o Recommended tutors are available from the parent resource center (see below).
  o Extra help is published on the Algebra/Geometry Clinic page. Please do not send your child at another time unless their teacher has given permission at least 48 hours in advance.

- Absence:
  o If you know in advance your child will be absent, it is difficult to give materials ahead of time. Check the website for getting materials during the absence.
  o If your child has an unexpected absence, the expectation is that students will have visited the website to view notes, flipcharts, and videos prior to returning to class.

- Other Policies:
  o Late work will not be accepted after the day of the test for that unit.
  o We expect students to complete the entire study guide prior to testing.
  o Tests must be completed in the block they are given (unless a student has an IEP accommodation of extended time on tests).
  o The retake policy is outlined on the course website. Incomplete retake work nullifies the chance to retake a test, since retakes are a privilege, and preparation is important. Teachers have the right to deny a retake. There is rarely a retake policy at the high school. Our goal is to help prepare students to do well the first time.

- Important websites:
  o Algebra 1 Information (including teacher websites): http://www.lcps.org/Page/115012
  o Geometry Information (including teacher websites): http://www.lcps.org/Page/115016
  o Phoenix ParentVue login: https://portal.lcps.org/
  o Algebra 1/Geometry Clinic: http://www.lcps.org/domain/11181
  o Algebra 1/Geometry “How-To Videos”: http://www.lcps.org/Page/11145

Please understand that the increased rigor is due to state higher standards and preparing your child for other high level math classes. We appreciate the support so many of you are giving at home.

Sincerely,

Eagle Ridge Middle School Algebra 1/Geometry Teachers