Algebra 1 at Deerstream

Algebra 1 is the foundation of higher level math. From the Saxon Algebra curriculum, "Students will develop the understanding they need to resolve more complex problems and functions with this step-by-step course. Covers topics including signed numbers, exponents, and roots; absolute value; equations and inequalities; scientific notation; unit conversions; polynomials; graphs; factoring; quadratic equations; direct and inverse variations; exponential growth; statistics; and probability."

Curriculum: Saxon Algebra, 3rd edition

Schedule: Algebra 1 will meet on **Thursday mornings from 9:15-12:15** at the Chapel Hill Bible Church from September 15-May 11 (minus scheduled breaks) each week for lecture, explanations, and practice. An optional Zoom session (recorded for those who cannot attend) will be provided midweek for students to ask questions and get help and clarification.

Attendance and Pacing: Each class will cover a large amount of material, so attendance is crucial for student success. Barring exceptional circumstances, students who miss 5 or more sessions over the course of the year will not be assigned a final grade. Students who miss class are expected to make up missed work.

Student Expectations: Algebra 1 is a high school level class, and students must be able to function with high school level maturity in their academics as well as in organization, class participation, and work completion. In class, they will be expected to attend carefully to instruction, participate actively, and take notes as needed. Middle school students may take this course for high school credit provided they display readiness in all areas.

Students are expected to complete 4-5 hours of work at home throughout the week. They will be responsible to check their own answers, identify the need for help, and seek out that help. The ability to work independently and with persistence is a crucial key to success in this course.

Parent Expectations: Parents agree to provide supervision as needed throughout the course. Some students will need more assistance than others. In most cases, parents should be prepared to begin the year with a high level of involvement that may decrease as the year progresses. Parents may purchase a published series of video lectures that will provide review and reinforcement throughout the week if desired.

Prerequisites and Placement: In general, **students entering Algebra 1 should be 12 by August 31.** Students considering Algebra 1 should be currently participating successfully in a pre-algebra level curriculum. Students should be able to score 85% on this placement test by September when the course begins: https://www.sonlight.com/media/uploads/saxon_a1_placement.pdf. Rising ninth grade students who need to take Algebra 1 but are not yet ready must commit to working through the summer to prepare. **Please consider carefully whether your student is ready for this course, <u>as the annual tuition is nonrefundable</u>. If you are unsure about your child's placement, contact the instructor <u>before</u> you register.**

Grades and High School Credit: Algebra 1 is a one credit high school level class, so formal assessments will be conducted and students will receive grades that take into account homework, classwork, and tests.

Instructor: *Lara Hall will begin her tenth year at Deerstream. After receiving her Bachelor's in Physics and 9-12 Education at UNCA, she taught high school science for several years in Asheville, including various levels of Physical Science and Earth Science. Later, she completed her Masters in grades 6-9 mathematics. She moved to this area in 1999 where she taught Physics and Physical Science in Chatham County. She began the homeschooling journey after having children and has loved it! She started at Deerstream in 2006 and both of her sons went all the way through. She's grateful to have many treasured memories from the perspective of both parent and teacher.*