

2015–2016 Geometry Syllabus

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1 Course Description

Geometry 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 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. Fractals, Flatland, and Pascal's Triangle |
| 6. Circles | 12. Binary Representation |

2 Teacher's Expectations

Above all else, you are to **respect** your classmates, staff, and yourself. Disrespect, intolerance, and misbehavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. My classroom is a safe learning environment.

I expect you to be a **responsible learner**, so do the following like it's your job (and you don't want to get fired!).

- **pay attention** in class
- **ask questions** when confused
- **get extra help** if you're still confused
- **be honest** at all times
- **bring your homework**, not your excuses (and never, ever copy someone else's)
- **be here** on time, all the time
- **make an effort** and don't give up!

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

3 Class Policies

Here's a select list of class policies you should be aware of.

- Bring your binder and a pencil each day. If you forget your pencil, borrow (and return!) one from me. If you run out of paper, I usually have some you may use.
- Homework-related
 - Your homework must be sufficiently neat, 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.
 - If you can't figure out a homework problem, copy the question, including the diagram, and leave room for the correct answer. Circle the number of the problem so I can see that you'll need to go over it.
 - HW Grading:

Score	Description
2pts	Maximum grade; you did a decent or better job.
1pt	You only did some of the homework or showed poor effort. For questions you didn't get, you didn't copy the given information and diagrams.
0pts	You didn't do the homework. Possible parental contact, especially if this becomes a pattern.
0pts	Cheating: I determine that your work is not your own — it's copied from someone/somewhere else. You will be referred to the Ethics Committee for an act of academic dishonesty. HW may not be made up.
+1pt	Next class, you show me a make-up homework (i.e., it's one class day late).
+1pt	Last class, you got 1pt. You've since finished the assignment and made corrections.

- If you fail a test, you will usually have an opportunity to earn back some of the lost credit. Attending extra help may be required.
- Attendance
 - When you are absent, you need to bring a re-admit slip from the Attendance Office (Room 100). You are responsible for copying any notes you missed as well as making up any homework you missed. If homework is due the day you were absent, that homework is due when you return (and you must have the re-admit slip).
 - Tardiness:
 - * Late to class? You must provide a valid late pass to come into class.
 - * Arrived after class has ended? Come to my classroom before lunch (homeroom, passing time, etc.) to show me your homework and to get that day's homework assignment and handouts. You need to copy a classmate's notes and consider coming in for extra help, too.

- Athletic Passes: You must let me know at least one class day ahead of time when you will need to miss class for a sport. Failure to do so will result in you not having your pass signed! If you're going to miss a quiz or test, it must be taken sometime before the missed class.
- Missed a quiz or test? Bring a re-admit slip and come ready to take the missed assessment. If you were absent for an extended period (a few days or more), you may be given time to prepare for the assessment.

If a pattern of missing quizzes & tests emerges, you might not be allowed to take the missed assessment.

- Food and drink: You may eat snacks (that do not violate the school nutrition policy) and have a water bottle with you so long as you clean up after yourself. If you leave a mess, you'll lose this privilege! During 1st Period, you are **encouraged** to eat the provided school breakfast!

4 Grading

4.1 Marking Period Grading

Categories

Category	Weighting	Description
Assessments	55%	Quizzes are worth ≈ 50 points, tests are worth ≈ 100 points, and hybrid quiz-tests (<i>quests</i>) are worth ≈ 75 points.
Homework	20%	HW is assigned most non-test days and checked during the next class' Do Now.
Participation	15%	If you're on time to class, come prepared (pencil, binder, etc.), take notes, pay attention, ask questions, and behave, you'll get a 100% participation grade for the day. Tardies, unexcused absences, misbehavior, and not having materials lower your participation grade.
Extension	10%	Extension problems will be made available after some quizzes and tests that enable students to earn points in this category.

Grading Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
≥ 97.5	≥ 92.5	≥ 89.5	≥ 87.5	≥ 82.5	≥ 79.5	≥ 77.5	≥ 72.5	≥ 69.5	≥ 67.5	≥ 62.5	≥ 59.5	< 59.5

4.2 Semester Grading

Your semester grade will be the average of the three six-week marking period grades and your final exam grade. The marking period grading scale is used **without** \pm modifiers.

5 Academic Honesty

Balboa High School takes academic honesty very seriously! If you commit an act of academic dishonesty — cheating, plagiarism, providing your work to another student to be copied or passed off as your own, etc. — you will be given a reduced grade (typically an F) and a referral will be made to the Ethics Committee. That involves a parent/guardian being contacted and a hearing.

6 Resources

6.1 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.

There is an online form of the textbook that you might find useful when your book isn't with you. The link is available on the course website (<http://feromax.com>) and the password will be given in class.

6.2 Extra Help

Having trouble keeping up? There are plenty of opportunities to get help!

- *Math Department Tutoring*: Typically one or two afternoons a week.
- *Library Tutoring*: The Afterschool Program often makes tutors available; just drop by and ask.
- *CSF [California Scholarship Federation] tutoring*: See the CSF advisor to be assigned a tutor. Sessions may be scheduled during homeroom, after school, or during lunch.
- *My Extra Help*: I give extra help during some lunch periods and on occasionally after school.

In the event you fail a quiz or test, you might be **required to get extra help** in order to be eligible for make-up credit.

6.3 School Loop

You have three important uses for logging in to School Loop (see <https://bhs-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>) on a daily basis:

- Your **grade** will be updated regularly.
- Each day's **homework assignment** will be posted there *and* shown on a screen in my classroom. If you don't have School Loop access at home, write the HW down during class.
- Found a grading mistake? Have a question or concern? Use School Loop to **send me a message**. Alternatively, you may email me at mferraro@balstaff.org.

Don't have a computer at home? There are 10 workstations in my classroom for student use during lunch, homeroom, and after school. The Library computers are available for your use during much of the day as well. When you're not in school, the many branches of the SF Public Library (see <http://sfpl.org>) provide computers and Internet access, as well as a quiet place to get homework done.

6.4 Course Website

The course website at <http://feromax.com> has a number of resources you will find helpful like class notes and various links (GeoGebra, a multilingual glossary, School Loop, and the online textbook).

6.5 Email Lists

In addition to using School Loop to contact students and parents, I use email lists to send reminders about upcoming tests, provide clarifications about assignments, share information about opportunities for students, and more.

