HIGH SCHOOL ALGEBRA DICTIONARY

ALGEBRA DICTIONARY

Term	Definition
Absolute Value	The distance between zero and a real number on the number line
Additive Inverse	A number added to that number that yields zero or the opposite. Example: 5 + -5 = 0, -5 in this equation is the additive inverse.
Ascending Order	Numbers organized from smallest to largest. Example: 3, 8, 10, 35
Axis of Symmetry	A line of symmetry for a graph. The sides on either side of the axis of symmetry are mirror images.
Base	The repeated factor of a number written in exponential form.
Binomial	A polynomial consisting of two terms.
Coefficient	Number in front of a variable or term.
Completing the Square	The process of rewriting a quadratic equation so that one side is a perfect square trinomial.
Compound Inequality	When two inequality statements are joined either by the word “or” or by the word “and.”
Constant	A term with no variables.
Converse	Opposite

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Coordinate Plane	Is formed when two number lines that intersect at their zero points.
Coordinates	Ordered pairs that identify points on a plane.
Deductive Reasoning	The process where using logic to draw conclusions.
Denominator	Lower half of a fraction.
Descending Order	Numbers organized from largest to smallest. Example: 34, 21, 15, 12
Difference of Two Squares	A squared number subtracted from another squared number.
Coefficient	Number in front of a variable or term.
Discriminant	The expression inside the radical of the quadratic formula.
Domain	The set of all first coordinates (x-values) of a relation or function.
Equation	Mathematical sentence with an equal sign.
Exponent	The number of times the base is used as a factor.

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Term	Definition
Factor	An integer that divides into integer with no remainder.
Function	A relation where every domain value is paired with one range value.
Graph	Drawing a line to represent the solution to an equation or inequality.
Inequalities	A math sentence that uses one of these symbols: $<$, $>$, $\leq$, $\geq$
Integer	A whole number.
Linear Equation	An equation with one or more variables where the exponent of the variable is 1.
Monomial	A polynomial consisting of one term.
Origin	The intersection of the x axis and y axis on the coordinate plane.
Perpendicular	When a line intersects and forms right angles.
Quadratic Formula	Used to find solutions to an equation that has a term with a variable to the second power.
Ratio	The relationship between two quantities.

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Term	Definition
Rational Number	A number that can be expressed as the quotient or fraction a/b of two integers, a numerator a and a non-zero denominator b.
Simplify	To put expressions into their most reduced form.
System of Equations	A set of two of more linear equations with two or more variables.
Terminating Decimal	A rational number that has a finite number of digits after the decimal point.
Trinomial	A polynomial consisting of three terms.
Undefined	A math expression that has no meaning or cannot be solved. Example: dividing a number by zero
Variable	When as symbol, such as a letter, represents a number.
X-Axis	The horizontal number line of a coordinate plane.
X-Intercept	The point where a graph intersects the x-axis.
Y-Axis	The vertical number line of a coordinate plane.
Y-Intercept	The point where a graph intersects the y-axis.