Parents: Please review this letter, syllabus, and course information, **and then provide your signature at the bottom of this page** and have your child return this letter to his or her teacher as soon as possible--this will indicate to me that you have seen my expectations for the class. Thank you.

September, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is enrolled in Algebra I for this school year at Lake Shore High School. Successful completion of this course is critical to his or her future. Currently, algebra and some geometry are required for *75% of all jobs*, with the most desirable jobs requiring even more mathematics. All students can succeed in Algebra; however, this success requires considerable effort and support. To support students’ mathematics learning, all Algebra I classes are using the **Carnegie Learning** mathematics program, a computer assisted program using a cognitive tutor software program designed to help students learn and understand mathematics.

An important aspect of the Carnegie Learning program is encouraging students to support each other and to work together as they learn mathematics. Students are much more successful in mathematics when they study with other students than when they work alone. As a result, students will spend time in class working in groups. I encourage them to work with other students outside of class by participating in homework study groups and telephone networks. (It is important to remember that working together and copying another student’s work are very different things.)

Your child’s textbook is provided in loose-leaf form; therefore, your child will need to purchase a binder in which to keep his/her text. I suggest a 1” binder. In class, students will be able to use rulers and calculators provided by the school and you may choose to purchase these items for your child for use outside of class, though the purchase is not required. If you do wish to purchase a calculator, our math department currently recommends the Texas Instruments TI-84 Plus Silver Edition (a graphing calculator).

I need your support. Specifically, I would like you to encourage your child to attend class *everyday* and to be on time for class. Show interest in your child’s mathematics work by asking what he/she did in class daily. Encourage him/her to work hard daily. Check his/her progress by asking to see homework assignments and his/her progress chart. *The only way for a student to succeed in mathematics is by attending class and by working hard everyday*.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any further questions or feel the need to talk to me, please do not hesitate to call me at the high school or to send me an e-mail. By working together, we can help your child have a successful year in Algebra I.

Sincerely,

Mr. Coffey mcoffey@lsps.org 586-285-8973

Ms. DiMarzio jdimarzio@lsps.org 586-285-8694

Ms. Kominiarek arutledge@lsps.org 586-285-8965

Mrs. Roda jroda@lsps.org 586-285-8961

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_

# Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_