

Parabolas in General Form:

$$Ax^2 + By^2 + Cx + Dy + E = 0$$

If either $A = 0$ or $B = 0$ then the equation defines a parabola (x^2 or y^2 is missing).

Isolate the variable that is not squared and use the completing the square method to convert the equation to that of a Parabola in **Standard Form**.

Hint: Solve for y if there is no y^2 in the equation or solve for x if there is no x^2 in the equation.

Ex 1) For the parabola $x^2 + 6x + 4y + 5 = 0$
find the vertex, axis of symmetry, focus, directrix,
and then graph the parabola.

$$4y = -x^2 - 6x - 5$$

$$4y + 5 = -x^2 - 6x$$

$$4y + 5 = -1(x^2 + 6x \quad)$$

$$4y + 5 = -1(x^2 + 6x + 9 \quad)$$

$$4y - 4 = -1(x + 3)^2$$

$$4y = \frac{-1(x+3)^2}{4} + \frac{4}{4}$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{4}(x+3)^2 + 1$$

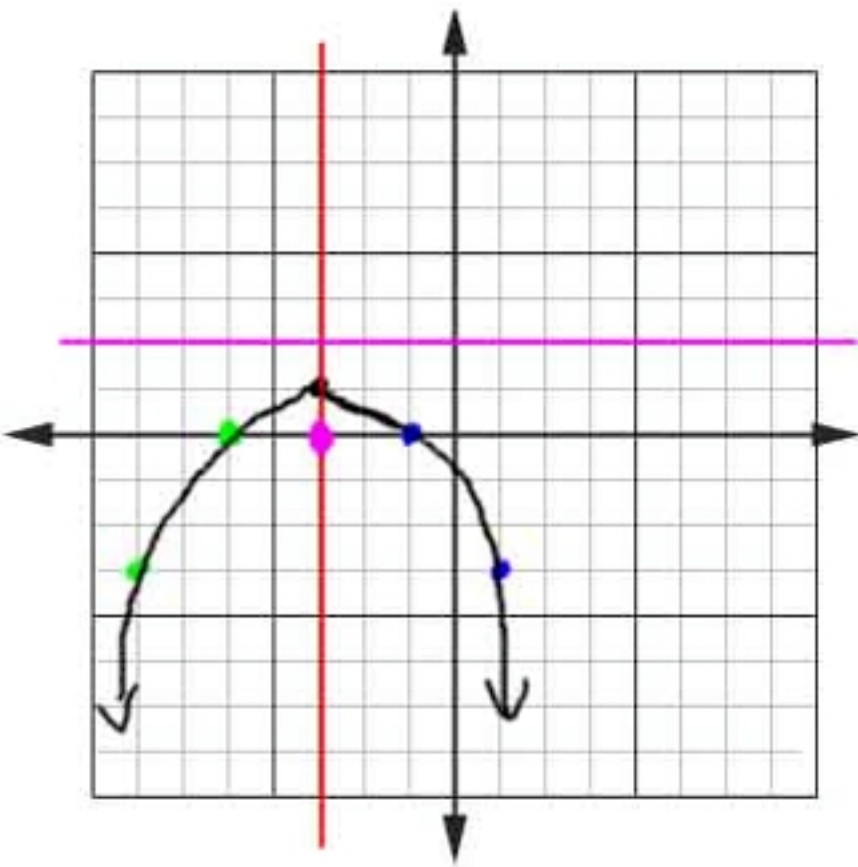
down wide vertex $(-3, 1)$
axis of symmetry: $x = -3$

$$\text{focus} \left(-3, 1 + \frac{1}{4\left(-\frac{1}{4}\right)} \right)$$
$$\left(-3, 1 - 1 \right)$$
$$\left(-3, 0 \right)$$

$$\text{directrix: } y = 1 - \frac{1}{4\left(-\frac{1}{4}\right)}$$
$$y = 1 + 1$$

x	y
-2	$\frac{3}{4}$
-1	0
0	$-\frac{1}{4}$
1	-3
2	

$$y = 2$$
$$y = -\frac{1}{4}(x+3)^2 + 1$$



Ex 2) For the parabola $y^2 - 12x - 2y + 25 = 0$ find the vertex, axis of symmetry, focus, directrix, and graph the parabola.

$$12x = y^2 - 2y + 25$$

$$12x - 25 = y^2 - 2y$$

$$12x - 25 = y^2 - 2y + 1$$

$$12x - 24 = (y - 1)^2$$

$$\frac{12x}{12} = \frac{1}{12}(y - 1)^2 + \frac{24}{12}$$

$$x = \frac{1}{12}(y - 1)^2 + 2$$

right wide vertex $(2, 1)$

axis of symmetry: $y = 1$

focus $(2 + 4(\frac{1}{12}), 1)$

$(2 + \frac{1}{3}, 1)$

$(2 + 3, 1)$

$(5, 1)$

directrix: $x = 2 - 4(\frac{1}{12})$

$x = 2 - 3$

$x = -1$

$$x = \frac{1}{12}(y-1)^2 + 2$$

x	y
$(2\frac{1}{2})$	2
$(2\frac{1}{3})$	3
$(2\frac{3}{4})$	4
$(3\frac{1}{3})$	5
(6)
(5	7)

