Name: Date: Period:

THE KEY TO TRINOMIAL FACTORING
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SIGNS…

Always look at this sign

FIRST

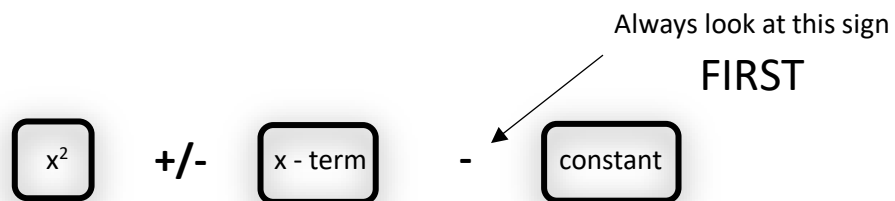| x^2 | **+/-** | x - term | **+** | constant |
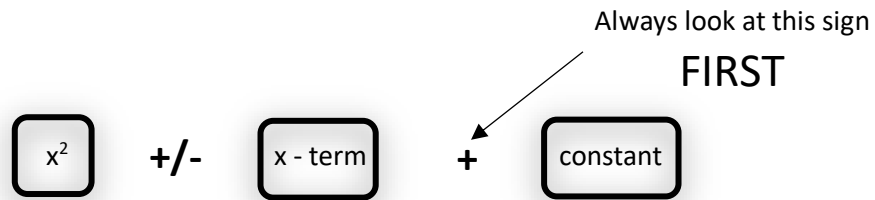
WHAT IT MEANS IF "+"

(+) (+)   OR   (-) (-)

HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH ONE TO USE?

This sign tells you
which sign to use.

| x^2 | **+/-** | x - term | **+** | constant |
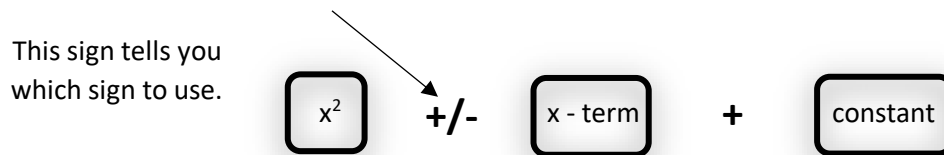
Numbers multiply to give you constant term but **ADD** to give you middle term.

Always look at this sign

FIRST

| x^2 | **+/-** | x - term | **-** | constant |

WHAT IT MEANS IF "-"

(+) (-)

The larger factor goes with the
sign that matches this one.

| x^2 | **+/-** | x - term | **-** | constant |
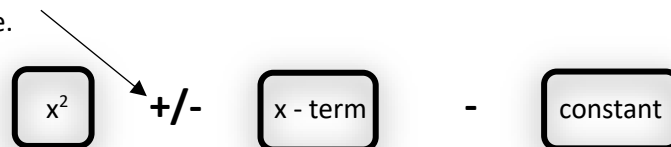
Numbers multiply to give you constant term but **SUBTRACT** to give you middle term.