

Precalculus Syllabus

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Precalculus Course Information

This class is Precalculus and is designed to make sure students are 'ready' for calculus next year. The textbook we will be using is:



Precalculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic (7th Edition); Demana, Waits, Foley, Kennedy

***Technology**

Students are expected to use a graphing calculator (preferably one from the TI family, like the TI-83 or TI-84) at all times. If you do not have a calculator please see me ASAP! Appropriate calculator/computer skills will be taught throughout the course and these skills are also outlined in the textbook in appropriate sections. We will be utilizing the computer lab (COW - Computer on Wheels) throughout the year. Please let me know if you do NOT have access to a computer outside of school so we can make arrangements for you to have time in the library to practice these skills. Also, refer to following link: <http://mathbits.com/>. I refer to mathbits.com regularly to refresh my skills using the TI series of calculators!

Reading, Homework, & Assignments

Precalculus tends to require a lot of work in order to be successful. To be successful students must take an active role not only in reading the material, but working through the examples as well as the daily practice problems. I expect students to come to class with comments & questions from the practice material (homework) each day. Students who practice these steps WILL be successful in this class. I will be providing answer keys during class time for all assigned material, formative assessments, as well as the larger assessments given every two weeks. I recommend students allow 20 minutes minimum per day for math homework.

Getting Help

I am here to help you! If there is not sufficient time in class to get your question answered or there is a topic you need help with then please come outside of class to get help. How to arrange time; note on the door, note on my desk, voicemail, text, email!!!! I make time DAILY for students who want/need help!

Grades

Unit Targets sheets provide a place for students to track their grades as the unit progresses. Every 2 weeks an assessment will be given during each unit. Remember, students can always reassess if they are not satisfied with their grade. In order to reassess students need to ask for a packet of work to demonstrate they have practiced the material and then they may take a 'reassessment'. Rubrics are used for grading and contained later in this packet.

Portfolios will be an essential learning tool in Precalculus. It will enable students to practice organizational skills, to reference lesson notes and class activities. It will be the vehicle in which students can monitor their progress and grade in Precalculus. The portfolio also provides a vehicle for communication between the teacher, student & subject matter. Portfolios will be collected every other week. At which time completeness is checked along with a feedback form whereby students and the teacher can communicate levels of understanding.

Overall grade is an average of the larger assessments given every two weeks along with each unit final. Daily attendance, homework, & math portfolios can be used to replace one of the larger assessments.

Online resources

<http://www.montemath.com/>

I maintain a website dedicated to helping students 'get math'. On this webpage you will find daily updates of in class & homework assignments given. You will also find handouts available for download along with invaluable links to tutorials and visuals on the current math topics.

Policies

Attendance is very important to be successful in this course. If absences or tardies are excessive, this will make success in this course significantly more difficult. Refer to school policy manual for attendance consequences.

I understand that students today have MANY other commitments that make 100% attendance virtually impossible and that is why the website www.montemath.com is such a vital part of my teaching. I make sure that I maintain the website 1 week ahead at all times so students can know ahead of time what is expected of them and they can be in charge of their own learning and time budgeting!

Cell phones & iPods

Refer to school policy manual

Respect

Students and the teacher are to be respectful of others, the classroom and the materials.

Responsibility

Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning. This means participating in class discussions, group assignments. Students are expected to, when needed, take advantage of opportunities for extra help.

Use of class time

It is expected that students will use all of the class time efficiently. This means that the students are to come to class prepared with all necessary materials for that day. Students are expected to be in their assigned seats when the bell rings and to work up until the bell rings to dismiss class. **STUDENTS MUST REMAIN SEATED UNTIL EXCUSED!**

Student

Name: _____
print

Teacher

Name: _____
print

Student

Name: _____
sign

Teacher

Name: _____
sign

Parent/Guardian

Name: _____
print

Parent/Guardian

Name: _____
sign