

Pre-Calculus / Calculus A Policies

2009-2010

Teacher Information:

John “Mike” Lynch
Planning hours: 3rd and 4th
Classroom Location: Room #222
john.lynch@dcsdk12.org
303-387-0771 ext. 64244

Course Overview

The first semester of this course provides an introduction to continuing math topics leading toward Calculus. Second semester is the first part of Calculus (Calculus A). The skill building and problem-solving techniques will be developed with methods that include graphic approaches. This course extends many abstract concepts and combines interesting, advanced material into a challenging course. We want to help you succeed in math and to gain skill and confidence by mastering the math topics of this course.

Textbook

The textbook for 1st semester is Pre-calculus, Enhanced with Graphing Utilities, 2nd edition, Sullivan and Sullivan, Prentice Hall. The textbook for 2nd semester is Calculus with Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry, 2nd edition, Saxon and Wang, Saxon Publishers, Inc. You are responsible for keeping your book in good condition, subject to normal wear and tear. A fine for book damage may be assessed at the completion of the course. Your book should be covered at all times with a non-adhesive cover.

Course Grades

Your semester grade is a weighted average of:

Tests and quizzes = 80%
Homework and homework quizzes = 20%

The final semester grade is the weighted average of the semester grade (80%) and the Final Exam (20%). The grading scale(s) are as follows:

<u>First Semester</u>	
88.00 - 100%	= <u>A</u>
76.00 - 87.99%	= <u>B</u>
64.00 - 75.99%	= <u>C</u>
52.00 - 63.99%	= <u>D</u>
Less than 52%	= <u>F</u>

<u>Second Semester</u>	
80.00 - 100%	= <u>A</u>
64.00 - 79.99%	= <u>B</u>
52.00 - 63.99%	= <u>C</u>
40.00 - 51.99%	= <u>D</u>
Less than 40%	= <u>F</u>

Each student should concentrate on doing assigned homework and studying for tests on a continuing basis throughout the course. There is no extra credit work available. The regular assignments provide the student with the necessary practice to prepare for the tests and to succeed with the material in preparation for following math classes.

Homework and Homework Quizzes

Homework is assigned regularly. Homework is important because it correlates to and prepares you for the tests. If you treat each assignment as a test and do your best to get each problem correct the first time or go back and try to figure out each incorrect solution immediately, you should do well on the tests. Homework is to be completed in pencil. Include your name, period, and assignment details at the top right of first page. Homework is to be completed and ready to go over for next class period. We will go over questions during the next class. After questions have been answered, it is due at the start the following class period. ***Late homework is not accepted, unless in the event of an excused absence! Then, it is due the day the student returns.***

Each homework problem (or part of a problem) is worth 1 point. To claim full points on an assignment, you must have attempted every problem, showing appropriate work (in the teacher's opinion) that supports your answer. Learning proper techniques for solving problems is an important part of the course. After answers are checked, it is up to you, and in your best interest, to correct any problems you have worked incorrectly. If you have not fully attempted every problem as described, you will receive a lower score on the assignment. A few problems not attempted would result in a deduction of your score. Unexcused absences result in no credit for assignments due or tests scheduled for that day. For excused absences, you are allowed one day for each day missed not counting the first day back to makeup homework assigned during your absence, however please try to make it up sooner than this. It is very difficult to catch up if you fall behind on homework.

On occasion, homework will not be collected. Rather, a homework quiz will be given in its place. You will be allowed to use your homework on the quiz...**AND NOTHING ELSE!** Not even your book. The quiz problems will be taken straight from the homework, and you will be given your points based on the amount of the original problem copied down, the amount and appropriateness of your work shown, and your answer.

Tests and Quizzes

Test and quiz schedules are posted in the classroom and on www.phsmath.org and are given frequently. Makeup tests will be administered the first day back after an excused absence, unless exceptional circumstances exist. ***Be prepared to take any missed test on the first day you return.***

Attendance and Tardies

Regular attendance is important. If you miss a class due to an excused absence, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed and to make up any work. Tardies will be handled in accordance with the school's tardy policy. You are tardy to this class if you are not in the room and quietly headed to your seat when the bell rings. If you are tardy, it not only reduces the time you have to learn in class, it disturbs others who were on time and ready to start at the bell. Be on time, every day. School rules on Tardy Policies and consequences will be followed. Ask to leave the room for emergencies only. ***Students will not be allowed out of class on a pass during the first ten and last ten minutes of class.***

Cheating Policy

If there is evidence of cheating, a zero will be recorded for all work involved and disciplinary action, including parental contact, will be initiated.

Calculators

A graphing calculator is highly recommended for this course. For a current approved list of calculators that are appropriate for this and for subsequent AP Mathematics courses, see the www.collegeboard.org web site. Popular models include the TI-83, TI-84, TI-89, and the TI-nspire. The only requirements regarding a calculator are that it has the capabilities to: (1) produce the graph of a function within an arbitrary viewing window, (2) find the zeros of a function, (3) compute the derivative of a function numerically, and (4) compute definite integrals numerically. Advanced calculators, such as the TI-89 and TI-nspire (CAS), are capable of much more than meeting these basic requirements. In this course, the student must be careful to not use the calculator to arrive at an answer, even a correct answer, unjustified by the necessary mathematical steps. If you choose to use built-in calculator features or programs, you must show the mathematical steps necessary to produce your results. A calculator result alone is not sufficient on homework or on tests.

Class Rules

Class rules are designed to make the classroom a place where learning can take place efficiently and effectively. The rules are:

- 1. No cell phones! Cell phones = automatic detention assigned.**
2. Be in the room and headed quietly to your seat when the bell rings.
3. Stay in your seat unless permission to move is given.
4. Come to class prepared with proper math supplies, including textbook and calculator.
5. Be prepared to work from bell to bell. The ending bell is my signal to dismiss the class.
6. Use the restroom between classes whenever possible.
7. Speak only when you have permission.
8. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.
9. The school tardy and dress code will be enforced!
10. NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM! (Water in a closeable container is OK 😊)

We will treat each other and ourselves with dignity and respect. We must recognize and respect the right of the teacher to teach and the right of the students who want to learn, to be able to learn. Conduct that interferes with the educational process is unacceptable and will result in immediate consequences. Be aware of and follow all school rules and classroom rules. Consequences: 1st misconduct = teacher/student conference, 2nd misconduct = referral and/or call to parents, 3rd and subsequent misconducts = detention.

*** All of this information, including assignments and test/quiz schedules, can be found on the website at www.phsmath.org

--I have read and understand the class policies.

--I am aware that the Parent Portal (IC) is available for me to view my student's attendance and academic progress.

Student name (please print) _____ Student Signature _____

Parent name (please print) _____ Parent Signature _____

Parent Contact Number _____ Parent E-mail _____