

Pre-Calculus: Expectations, Goals, and Grading 2010-2011

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This is a cumulative college prep course covering: Algebraic and trigonometric functions and their graphs, analytic trigonometry, vectors, parametric/polar equations, matrices, analytic geometry, and discrete mathematics/statistics.

Expectations: (What I expect you to say of yourself)

1. I am responsible for my own learning.
2. I will come prepared! This includes bringing my book, paper, notebook, pencil, calculator, assignment and all other items necessary for each day's tasks.
3. I will keep my book covered and protected.
4. I will be courteous and respectful to everyone in the classroom at all times.
5. I will be on task and participate for the entire class period.
6. I will follow all rules and expectations as described in the Vashon Island High School student handbook, the Vashon Island School District student handbook, and the Code of Ethics.
7. I will be responsible for making up all work when absent. I will complete work ahead of time or make other arrangements with Mr. Krauss for prearranged absences such as doctor appointments, school related absences, or vacations. If an absence is unexcused, I will be unable to make up the work missed including tests and quizzes.
8. I will keep my parent(s)/guardian(s) informed about my progress in this class.

Content Goals:

1. Model advanced problem situations using a variety of methods.
2. Simplify and/or evaluate algebraic and polynomial expressions.
3. Solve and check equations and inequalities using a variety of techniques.
4. Understand and use a variety of formulas.
5. Understand, transform, and apply functions and relations using equations and graphs.

Calculating Grades:

Grades will be calculated based on the following categories:

Homework	25%
Participation	5%
Tests	50%
Quizzes	20%

Grading Scale:

94% to 100%	A
90% to 93.99%	A-
87% to 89.99%	B+
83% to 86.99%	B
80% to 82.99%	B-
77% to 79.99%	C+
73% to 76.99%	C
70% to 72.99%	C-
67% to 69.99%	D+
60% to 66.99%	D

A percentage below 60% is not passing. To earn credit for this class, students must earn 60% or better.

Textbook:

The book used for the class is Precalculus (6th Ed.) by Pearson (2004). Students are expected to return the book they are assigned in as good or better condition than when it was issued.

Materials Required:

One notebook (3-ring or bound) and paper for storing and organizing class notes and homework; pencils and erasers; graphing calculator; graph paper and ruler; and an active brain.

Graphing Calculators:

Graphing calculators are **required** for this course as well as the courses following it. A student without one is at a disadvantage. It is recommended that students have the TI-83 or -84 series calculators. Other models, such as the TI-89, HP-48 and above, TI nSpire, etc. are allowed but will not receive specific in class instructions and may not be allowed on some tests due to analytic solving features (not all in that list have that option). Graphing calculators can be found in office stores, online, as well as used for reasonable prices.

Extra Help:

Mr. Krauss is available outside of the regular class period for extra help and extra math for all those who want it, and will expect students who are having difficulty with the class material to come in for extra help or practice. Availability is from 6.50 am to the start of school each day, and at lunch (bring your food with you!). After school help is available to those who cannot make the regular hours by making an appointment in advance.

Attendance:

Every day class is held, including short days, there will be either a lesson/activity or an assessment. Therefore it is important for all students to be present, on-time, and prepared. If a student is going to be tardy, excused or not, they must make sure that they have everything they need because Mr. Krauss will not allow them to go get it; and they must be as non-disruptive as possible to class in progress. The first unexcused tardy of each term is free. Beginning with the 2nd, students will lose participation points; at the 4th unexcused tardy, detentions will be assigned; continued tardiness will lead to referrals. Students with excused absences have the same number of days missed to complete the missed assignments, except when agreed upon by Mr. Krauss. If a quiz/test is missed due to an excused absence, students have **1 week** to make it up outside of the class period and students must arrange a time to take it. Tests that are not made up will be marked as zeros in the grade book. Unexcused absences and tardies may not make up any of the work or quizzes/tests missed and will receive zero scores for them. In the case of prearranged absences, students must get the work ahead of time from Mr. Krauss and have it completed upon return.

Important Things to Know (Mr. Krauss' Other Policies and Rules):

1. Homework is assigned every day and due at the beginning of the class period the following day. Late work is accepted for up to half the possible credit only one day after the due date.
2. Openers/warm-ups are turned in for credit on the day of the chapter test. Days missed due to excused absence do not need to be made up, instead write the date and "absent" for the missing opener and credit will be granted based on the days you were present.
3. A test or quiz is given approximately once per week.
4. Assignment guides are given to students at the beginning of each chapter and give the order of events including quizzes and tests for that chapter. They will also be posted to the class website.
5. I will do my best to have at least 20 minutes in each class period in which students will work on their assignment. Students who wish to receive the maximum amount of credit for their work should be using this time for their assignment and taking advantage of Mr. Krauss' presence for any questions.
6. Classroom calculators are not to leave the room; there are calculators available for checkout in the library.
7. A cumulative exam will be given at the end of each trimester.
8. Grades are available online through the Skyward system. Please see school mailing to access each individual account. They are updated as I check off homework, and tests and quizzes are graded typically within a few days to a week. Students may see me individually for their current grades as well, a good time is when I am checking off homework.
9. After being handed back and reviewed, tests and quizzes are kept in a file cabinet in a folder under a student's name. Students may look through this folder and review their past assessments at any appropriate time, but the assessments are not to leave the room except in special cases.
10. Specific classroom rules include [expected consequences of failing to follow the rule appear in brackets]:
 - a. No throwing of any objects [detention]
 - b. Appropriate language and behavior only [reprimand/detention/referral depending on situation]
 - c. Cheaters never prosper [0 score on assignment/assessment, referral]
 - d. Copying homework only hurts you. [decreased preparation for tests/future, 0 on assignment if caught]
 - e. When in doubt: ask [not understanding the material/question as well as you could have had you asked]
 - f. Cell phones must be turned off and put away. [If a phone is out (even if off) it will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. Repeat offenders will receive increasing consequences.]
 - g. Media devices may only be used after a lesson when working individually, and only for music. They are not allowed during tests. Cell phones that play music are still cell phones and may not be used. [loss of privilege to listen to music player, confiscation of music player]

For Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

If you would like to get in touch with Mr. Krauss, it is best if you send an email. It is checked throughout the day. Voicemails are checked in the morning, and Mr. Krauss will not answer the phone during the class period.