

Welcome to AP Calculus!

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Very few students are able to take calculus in high school. Your membership in this elite group is something to be celebrated, but not to be taken lightly. To be blunt, this is a rigorous course with extremely high expectations. You will not have the option of blowing this class off, but I assure you that once you commit to it, it will be one of the most fun, enlightening, and rewarding experiences of your high school career.

My goals for you, the student, are as follows:

1. You will recognize calculus in everyday life, and apply calculus formulae and concepts to real-world situations
2. You will solve novel problems and justify your problem-solving process
3. You will help your peers learn

Notice that the list does not include “you will get the correct answer to the problems”. While correct answers are important, I believe that the *tools* used to produce the correct answers are more important. Therefore, in addition to solving problems, you will be expected to **justify** that you understand *how* you found your solution. This justification will take many forms, including writing, speaking, presenting, arguing, experimenting, and exploring.

Be prepared to sweat

That quote is very appropriate for this class, not because we’re going to be running wind sprints, but because we have quite a lot to cover in a relatively short time. We’ll be moving at a quick pace, and working hard. However, the payoff is enormous. So, be prepared to be amazed by what you can accomplish, and be prepared to sweat.

Grading Scale

You will be graded on a standard grading scale. However, I want you to keep the following in mind. It is difficult to obtain a 5 on the AP Calculus exam and it will be difficult to obtain an A in this class, especially without some “sweat”!

Grade	AP Range	Percent
A	4.5 - 5.0	90 - 100%
B	4 - 4.49	80 - 89.9%
C	3 - 3.99	70 - 79.9%
D	2 - 2.99	60 - 69.9%
F	< 2.0	< 60%

My gradebook is divided by topic, rather than the traditional HW, Quizzes, and Tests. Therefore, the following percentages will be approximate:

Tests	40%
Quizzes	30%
Homework	15%
Final	15%

Major Topics:

Motion
Limits and Continuity
Derivatives
Applications of Derivatives

Functions defined by integrals
Approximation
Area/volume
Area functions
Differential Equations

Administrative policies

Absences

If you have been absent, it is your responsibility to get the work (including tests) made up within 2 days of your absence. If you have an unexcused absence, all work done that day is given zero credit, including long term projects collected that day. Come to class!

Retake Policy

You are required to retake a quiz if you score less than 75%, and to help *motivate* you, a grade of 50% will be in the gradebook until that score (or better!) is attained. To retake a quiz, I need to see written quiz corrections that show what went awry on that problem(s). Gateway quizzes will have multiple retakes because some skills take longer to master! Gateway quizzes must be retaken in order. For example, you must retake quizzes 1,2, and 3 before you can retake quiz #4. In order to keep everyone moving, one retake will be offered per week. For the majority of you, come in during Academic Time Wednesdays or Thursdays during 5th or 6th periods. Academic time will be offered periodically through advisory. Tests retakes will be offered, as needed, but are not guaranteed.

Homework Policy

Grappling with material creates understanding. I promise not to assign excessive amounts of homework. I expect you to do what I assign! If homework is not completed, plan on coming in at academic time to do it, for 50% credit. I know many of you will use AI, to some degree, to get questions answered. Use it to *learn*, not to do homework. I find those that copy answers, without thought, usually fail many gateway quizzes because they have missed out on the grappling!

Supplies

- Pencils and Pens
- Graphing calculator
- Lined Paper: a large spiral notebook (with a folder for worksheets) or 3-ring binder. Students are amazed every year when we fill the notebooks!
- Graph paper (2nd semester)
- White board marker (if you like to do math on the desks)
- Box of tissues or tape (for the classroom community! Thanks! 1 homework pass!)

Help!

I am available during 5th period on Wednesdays, 2:34 - 3:57 and 6th period on Thursdays, 2:36 - 3:15. I have a volunteer, Jim, who also comes in on Wednesdays to help.

We all need to understand that questions arise naturally in a difficult course such as this. The key is to address them immediately so they do not hinder your progress. For my part, I will happily make room in my schedule, but I need you to initiate the conversation. Please let me know as soon as questions arise, and we will schedule a time to tackle them. Know that your classmates are also fantastic supporters. Work together! Help each other!!

Technology Resources

- Check Schoology for what we are doing in class and any materials you may have missed.
- Check my webpage for links to Khan Academy, AP Classroom, Delta Math, and more!

The AP Test

This is an AP course, and the AP test is an integral capstone to the course. Colleges agree: many do not consider an AP course to be completed if the test is not taken. Therefore, I teach with the expectation that every student is taking the AP test in the spring. I realize that AP tests are not free, but CHS will provide financial assistance for students that qualify.

The AP Test is **Monday, May 10, 2027**. Mark your calendars!! We'll be there in a mere 8 months and 27 days.