

LHS Calculator Use Policy

The Mathematics Department believes that technology is an important tool that enhances student learning. All students, in all courses, beginning with Algebra 1, are **required** to begin the school year with their own graphing calculator. The Texas Instrument-84+ graphing calculator (TI-84+) is the model we are recommending for anyone purchasing a **new** calculator. If your child currently owns a TI-83 graphing calculator, we are not requiring that you purchase a new one. These calculators are allowed for the mathematics MCAS test sophomore year, the SAT, Advanced Placement tests, and are allowed at most universities. (The models called “Silver” have much more memory and some extra features. They are a bit more expensive and are not required, although they can be used.)

Students who purchase other brands or models must understand that their teacher is not responsible for “translating” between their calculator and the TI-84+ that will be used regularly in class.

With the ability to link calculators to a computer and update them via the Internet as new features and operating systems become available, students should rest assured that the calculator will be adequate for their entire high school career.

The use of the calculator for an individual course is at the discretion of the teacher. While a calculator is an invaluable tool for studying mathematics, there will be times when the instructor deems that a particular topic or skill is more appropriately investigated and assessed without the use of a calculator.

Students are expected to demonstrate the utmost personal integrity in using the calculator. Inappropriate uses of the calculator include, but are not limited to:

- Playing calculator games during class
- Storing formulas, notes, programs, and/or answers unauthorized by the teacher
- Sharing a calculator during a quiz, test, or final exam
- Using the calculator on an assessment not intended for calculator use

Inappropriate use may result in disciplinary consequences. The teacher reserves the right to take steps to avoid inappropriate use by clearing the memory of the calculator, trading a personal calculator for a school calculator, or other measures as necessary.