

Pre-Calculus

2018 – 2019 Syllabus

Mr. Lacefield

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Pre-Calculus is to be taken after Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Pre-Calculus is geared towards the college bound student and will be taught accordingly.

I. Units Covered in Pre-Calculus:

- Functions
- Rational Functions
- Exponential/Logarithmic Functions
- Right Triangle Trigonometry/ Law of Sines and Cosines
- Unit Circle
- Trigonometric Graphs
- Trigonometric Identities
- Conic Sections
- Polar Coordinates
- Vectors
- Limits/Derivatives/Area of Curve

II. Materials Needed:

1. Pencil or blue/black pen
2. Paper
3. Book
4. Scientific or graphing calculator (be sure it has the **sin**, **cos**, and **tan** buttons). Graphing Calculators are encouraged but not required. If buying a Texas Instruments calculator please save back packaging and bring to school.
5. Folder/Binder

It is the student's job to keep up with all materials so I feel it is important to be organized. I do not collect folders for a grade – it is solely for the student's benefit. I will not provide scientific calculators.

TI-Nspire CX Calculators:

I will be using the new TI-Nspire CX graphing calculators every day. I highly recommend these calculators for students in my class as well as future math classes and the ACT (do not get the CAS version as it cannot be used on the ACT). It is not required, but it will give them an advantage on homework and their level of familiarity with the technology.

III. Class Expectations

- Each student is expected to master the principles of Pre-Calculus by doing their best.
- **All school rules will be enforced.**
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- Each student is expected to respect others in the classroom and treat everyone as he/she would like to be treated including peers, guests, and me, as the teacher.
- Attendance is critical, but if a student is absent it is their responsibility to ask for the make-up work. They will have the number of days they were absent plus one extra to turn in the make-up work unless you discuss an alternative with me. Students should ask me for make-up work before or after class -- NOT during class activities.

- I expect all students to keep up with their work in my class. That means it must be turned in on time – **I will not accept late work after the friday of the week it was given out.** All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated by me. If an assignment is not turned in on time it will result in a zero.

IV. Test Corrections

After each exam, students will be given 1 week (this may be shorten if at the end of a grading period) to make corrections on missed problems. Students must convince me that they understand how to do the problem and correct it completely. On some problems, this may involve written explanations. Students will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for corrected answers which will be added to their exam grade. This opportunity is a privilege and if abused maybe ended.

V. Homework/Classwork

Every class period will begin with a flashback multiple choice problem reviewing previous material (from this class and previous math classes). Students will “click” their answers using TI-Nspire calculators. It is important that I assess each individual student so students are not permitted to talk during this time – talking will result in a zero. Grades will be determined from their responses – students will receive a 0% for not answering, 50% for answering incorrectly or a 100% for answering correctly in the time limit. Students will receive their average percentage for the week as a homework/classwork grade. Flashback problems can appear on quizzes and tests.

I will not grade every assignment for accuracy. For new concepts, I will give students the opportunity to attempt the problems and earn a 100%, 80%, 60%, 40%, 20% or 0% based on their work. If a student is struggling with a problem, it is important that students write their thoughts, questions, or beginning attempts so I can determine where they are struggling – **do not leave a problem blank!** For review concepts, I will grade for accuracy.

VI. Question Board

I always encourage questions, but I realize it can sometimes be intimidating to ask questions in front of peers. The Question Board is in my room to allow students to write questions to me without fear. These questions can include problems from homework, quizzes, or tests but it is not limited to this.

To encourage more questions, students will have the opportunity to drop their lowest homework assignment. Students can do this by asking 5 questions during the 9 weeks. To receive credit for this, students will have to write their name (but it can be done on the back so only I can see it) and will only receive 2 credits a week (so students do not ask all of them on the last week of the 9 weeks) though students may ask as many questions as they need. My hope is that students will ask lots of questions so that everyone can learn.

VII. How Grades Will Be Determined

Semester grades are composed of the following:

- 40% First 9 weeks
- 40% Second 9 weeks
- 20% Final Exam

Nine week grades are composed of the following:

- 15% flashbacks
- 30% classwork and projects
- 50% Tests/quizzes (some projects will be test grades. Will be announced with project)

The following North Bullitt High School grading scale will be used:

- 90 -100 – A
- 80 - 89 – B
- 70 - 79 – C
- 60 - 69 – D
- 59 and below – F

Students and parents have access to Infinite Campus Portal and I strongly recommend you view this on a regular basis. My grades are updated weekly in order to keep everyone informed. I will also write their current grade on every test so students will know how they are doing. Please do not ask for extra credit as I do not give extra credit to individual students.

VIII. Tutoring/Extra Help

I am available before school at 7 AM every day. Arrangements for after school will need to be made in advance. If you, as a student, begin to struggle with the material please come talk with me immediately so we can make arrangements to fix the problem. It is extremely important if a student finds that he/she is struggling to come talk to me immediately (do not wait until right before a test!!).

X. Communication/Conferences:

Conferences can be scheduled as needed. If there are ever any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Lesson plans, homework, and other important announcements can be found on my website. Please keep a copy of this syllabus for future reference.

I also reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus should the need arise.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year.

I have read and understand Mrs. Bickett's syllabus.

Student's PRINTED name _____

Student's signature _____

Parent/Guardian's signature* _____

***If you have email, please send me a quick email including your child's name so I can create an address book of guardian emails.**