

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year. I hope that you had a good and restful summer and that you are ready for a fun and challenging, yet great year of AP Calculus! In this course, you will begin to learn about one of the most important, useful and influential bodies of mathematics: the mathematics of change. Whether you become an engineer, teacher, mathematician, nurse, musician, doctor, scientist, preacher, lawyer, writer, or something else wonderfully spectacular, you will no doubt encounter these ideas, either directly or tangentially. More importantly, taking this AP class is an opportunity to study material in depth with heavy emphasis on analytical thinking. It requires a comprehensive level of not only knowing concepts (i.e. memorizing definitions), but also understanding HOW we know what we know, as well as the ability to COMMUNICATE this knowledge.

Far more important than learning calculus is learning how to learn, which involves learning how to formulate excellent questions, learning how to make connections between concepts, and learning how to prepare for large-scale tests and exams. These are skills you will use and continue to improve on and apply for the rest of your life.

Since you have accepted the challenge of Advanced Placement work, keep in mind a few things. First, this is a college-level course - the material is in no way "watered down". The work may be much more challenging than anything the you have encountered previously. You may have to work harder to grasp the concepts and spend more time on assignments than ever before. You may need to take advantage of the extra help and practice that will be available.

This course has been described as a roller coaster ride with its ups and downs; there will be times this year when you will become discouraged and frustrated. I hope that you will persevere and thereby develop the resilience that is necessary for success in college and life in general.

Second, the date for the AP Calculus test has already been set: May 5, 2020 – a week earlier than last year! The expectations set by College Board for AP Calculus are high. Likewise, the expectations that I have set for the course and for you, my students, are also high. Since this class will be taught with the same rigor as a college calculus class, you are expected to devote time, energy, and attention both in and out of class to master the concepts being learned. The course is intended to be challenging. A significant amount of homework and preparation outside of the classroom may be necessary. In addition, as AP students you must realize that the class cannot slow down if you are absent or two or three of you do not understand a lesson or concept. It is your responsibility to seek extra help. I offer extra help after school generally two to three times a week and some mornings by appointment.

The successfulness of you, the student, is contingent upon your willingness to accept and carry out the following responsibilities:

Responsibilities of Students

1. Come to class each day on time, prepared to work
2. Bring all necessary supplies to class, including completed homework, questions, charged laptop and graphing calculator
3. Pay attention and take notes in class. Recopy/redo notes and examples at home if needed
4. Be prepared to participate in class discussion and activities.
5. Read the calculus textbook and/or seek online tutorials if needed
6. Keep a good attitude. Much emphasis will be placed on peer and teacher critique of class discussion and board work
7. Ask for help from both peers and your teacher when confused or unsure
8. Come for extra help when needed
9. Form study groups with other students in the course
10. Study, study, study!

Responsibilities of Parents

1. Ensure that your child is in class each day (schedule appointments outside of class time, limit field trips)
2. Make sure your child brings all necessary supplies
3. Make sure that your child is studying effectively and doing homework daily
4. Encourage your child to participate in all class discussion and activities
5. Encourage your child to seek help when needed – whether it be recopying class notes and redoing class examples, asking peers and/or teacher for help, reading textbook or online resources for clarification
6. Regularly communicate with your child concerning this class. Keep up to date with teacher website/canvas/remind101, etc.
7. Encourage your child to form study groups with other students in the class
8. Encourage your child to study, study, study!

More Specifics:

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to get in touch with me outside of our class time, please feel free to e-mail me or stop by my room before/after school.

E-mail: swong@ebnet.org

Room: G-14

Website: <https://mswongswebsite.weebly.com> *may be discontinued with successful implementation of Canvas

USE OF TECHNOLOGY:

1. **Laptops and Graphing Calculators:** As per the district's 1 to 1 policy, students may use laptops FOR CLASSROOM LEARNING PURPOSES ONLY. Distribution of "handouts" may be electronic, and students may need access to the internet for various classroom activities. Please come to class with both laptops and graphing calculators fully charged.
2. **Cell phones** are **NOT PERMITTED** in class unless we are using them for a class activity. If you would like to take a picture of the homework board or notes screen, you **MUST** first ask permission to take out your phone.

HOMEWORK:

Homework is a **necessary** part of the learning process. It gives you the opportunity to reflect on new concepts and build your understanding. It is through this process that you will develop an understanding of how to solve problems and recognize concepts with which you need additional support. Homework is assigned regularly and is due in class the next day. It will be checked at the teacher's discretion and periodically collected for a completion grade. As per school policy, late homework will not be accepted, unless you were absent.

) Full credit will be given if a solid effort is shown, not for correctness.

) List your NAME, the ASSIGNMENT, DATE on the top of the page.

) **Check your answers ONLINE every night!** Check METHOD as well as final answer.

Complete solutions are available and should be used to help you recognize what you don't understand. Star any problems you could not work through.

) **Don't give up if you can't complete a problem immediately!** Use your notes, textbook and available websites as resources. Be prepared to ask questions on any concepts you did not understand.

ABSENCES & MAKE-UP WORK

-) It is **your responsibility** to pick up all missed work from your class folder.
-) It is **your responsibility** to get the notes/homework from a classmate. If you cannot reach a friend, check my website and/or Canvas for homework assignments.
-) It is **your responsibility** to schedule any make-up quizzes/tests with me on the day you return. Be prepared to take the assessment the day you return, either in class or after school. It is **your responsibility** to plan accordingly.
-) If you come after school to review any lesson missed due to an excused absence, you must come with a copy of the notes you missed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In accordance with the student handbook and the Academic Integrity Policy, any students involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive a zero on that assignment and a referral to their grade level administrator

EXTRA HELP

My goal is for every student to be successful in this class. I find math WONDERSFUL and look forward to sharing this my enthusiasm with you! Do not hesitate to ask questions in class. Extra-help will be offered after school generally 3 times a week and some mornings by appointment. In order to come for extra help, all homework assignments must be completed to date and 100% effort needs to be shown in class. I am more than willing to help; all you have to do is ask! Don't forget: **"Your success in math is not based on what you know, but by what you do when you don't know the answer."** -Anon.

GRADING

Every student earns their grades as follows:

-) Tests/Quizzes 75% of your quarter grade
-) Homework/Classwork/Projects 25% of your quarter grade

Class assignments may be randomly checked and graded, so always put your best effort into everything you do. Formula quizzes will be given periodically and no partial credit is given. Formula quizzes may or may not be announced and will be cumulative in nature.

AP EXAM:

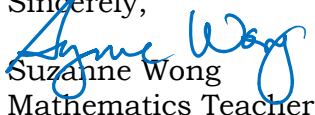
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Rule of Four – Throughout this course, functions will be presented in a graphical, numerical, analytical (algebraic), and verbal manner. You must make sense of and understand the connections among these **four** representations. You must also be able to communicate mathematics and explain solutions to problems in written sentences. To prepare you for the exam, you will be asked to verbally explain and defend your solutions regularly.

Start thinking 5!

I look forward to working together for an exciting, rewarding, and successful year!!!

Sincerely,


Suzanne Wong
Mathematics Teacher

