

August 13, 2014,

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to welcome you and your child to my class. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your son or daughter. As their math teacher, I would like to encourage and invite you to contact me throughout the school year by phone (836-5118) or via email (kayla.smith@anderson.kyschools.us) as the need arises. Please do not feel that a problem must present itself before you contact me.

The main purpose of this letter is to stress to you the importance of your child completing their daily assignments. As I will have explained to your student, completion means an honest attempt must be given to each homework problem. This means they should show logical, organized, work even if they are convinced it is wrong. Homework is to be completed on the day it is due, usually the next day. The math department has adopted several rules and guidelines that will be followed in all classes related to homework, assessments, and calculators. Please refer to the ACHS Math Department: Common Expectations for the complete list.

If your student is struggling, there are several ways to receive extra assistance. I am often available after school each day until 3:30pm or later by appointment. ACHS also offer ESS (extended school services). Please check the website for a schedule. Further assistance is now available for both students and parents via the internet. Help can be found using the websites listed on the attached RESOURCES sheet.

There is simply no good excuse for incomplete or late assignments with all this help in place. Students cannot do well if they are not practicing their skills with their homework and reviewing their notes each day. Quizzes will be given often so it is important for them to keep an organized notebook and complete all assignments.

It is also important that your student come prepared each day. In addition to their math book, it is imperative that your child bring...

- a binder to keep notes, handouts, and homework
- pencils and erasers
- graphing calculator (please refer to attach info sheet about acceptable calculators and options for purchasing)

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration in these very important matters and to assure you that I have your child's best interest in mind.

(FAWBUSH)

Your child will earn 10 free homework points if this letter is signed and returned to me by Friday, August 15, 2014. I would like for you to keep this letter and return only the bottom portion.

Parent Signature

Email address: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (optional)

ACHS Math Department - Common Expectations

Calculators:

- Calculators are essential for success in math classes
- Students are responsible for getting their own calculator and bringing it to class each day
- Calculators on cell phones are not permitted
- Students are not allowed to share calculators during class
- Students are responsible for supplying their own batteries
- Students who are not financially able to purchase their own calculators should contact their math teacher or seek assistance at the youth service center

Late work/Make-up work:

- Students are responsible for completing work on the day it is due. Late work is not accepted.
- Per school policy, after excused absences, students have three days to complete missed work
- Following an excused absence, students have five days to make-up missed tests. *If a student misses a review day (no new content), they are still expected to take the test on the assigned day.

Test Retakes:

- Students are allowed to re-take each unit test one time. The original test score and the re-take score will be averaged to figure the final score. Different test versions will be used each time.
- Students have two weeks from the day of the unit test to complete the re-take. All re-takes must take place outside of class.
- In order to re-take a test, students must show that they have made an effort to re-learn the content from the unit. This may be done at ESS or through Study Island.
- Re-takes are not allowed on trimester exams.

ACHS Math Department Calculator Information

Class	Calculator Use	Type of Calculator
Algebra 1	required	graphing
Geometry, Pre-AP Geometry	required	graphing
Data & Measurement	required	graphing
Pre-AP Data & Measurement	required	graphing
Algebra 2, Pre-AP Algebra 2	required	graphing
Pre-Calculus, Pre-AP Pre-Calculus	required	graphing
Introduction to College Math	required	graphing
AP Statistics	required	graphing
AP Calculus	required	graphing

A "graphing calculator" is a handheld calculator/computer with built-in mathematics software capabilities, including graphing. Prices on new models range from about \$90 - \$130.

ACHS math teachers have selected the TI-83Plus/TI-84Plus graphing calculators for classroom instruction and demonstration.

- Students choosing to purchase a calculator other than the models listed below should make certain that it has the same features and capabilities before making the purchase.
- Students who need to purchase a new graphing calculator should take care to purchase "new" technology.
- Students who have a TI-82 or TI-83 do not need to purchase a new calculator.

What to purchase NEW: TI-84Plus or TI-84PlusSE

Both of these are upgradeable. The 84Plus has a faster processor than the TI-83Plus and is more user friendly. The SE (Silver Edition) models have much more memory than the regular models.

Where to purchase NEW calculators:

- Retail stores: WalMart, Office Depot, Staples, Target, and KMart are examples of local stores that usually stock these models. Compare prices before you buy.
- Online shopping: There are many online sites that sell these calculators. A simple search for "TI-84 Plus" will produce nearly 14,000 results!! Here are a few examples of sites for online shopping for NEW calculators: www.schoolmart.com www.usedcalculators.com www.graphingcalculators.net www.ebay.com

What to purchase USED: TI-83 or TI-83Plus

Please do not buy a "new" TI-82 or TI-83 in a store unless the price is drastically reduced.

These calculators represent OLD TECHNOLOGY and cannot be upgraded.

Where to purchase USED calculators:

other students, friends, online sites such as www.usedcalculators.com or www.ebay.com

- We do not recommend or endorse specific dealers or locations. The retail stores and online sites listed above are merely examples of the many possibilities available.
- Compare the prices & the shipping costs, and only make purchases from trusted stores and sites.
- If you don't find what you're looking for, keep looking. Don't get talked into purchasing a model that isn't what you want.

What NOT TO BUY (new or used): Please do not purchase TI-81, TI-85, TI-86, TI-89, or Casio calculators. These models do not have many of the functions and features needed for high school math classes.

Arrangements can be made for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch & fees or who have financial situations requiring special consideration. Please contact your child's math teacher for more information.

*While helpful in some situations, calculator apps for smart phones are not an option because they are not allowed on in-class, state, or national tests.