

Potomac Falls High School Math Department Calculator Policy

We live in a world filled with technology. The PFHS Math Department believes that technology is invaluable when teaching students mathematics concepts and in developing their ability to efficiently solve problems. As such, the graphing calculator is used extensively in PFHS mathematics classrooms. Teachers will also be using the online calculator DESMOS.

It is recommended that all students enrolled in a math class at Potomac Falls High School have a graphing calculator for their personal use. Each teacher will have specific calculator use policies in their classes. **Phones are not substitutes for these calculators!** Students **MUST** bring their calculator to class with them every day. They will also use them to complete class assignments and homework, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. There will be times in class when students are *not* to use their calculators. Teaching math requires a fine balance of when to and when *not* to use the calculator. The individual teachers will instruct the students on appropriate use of the calculator.

PFHS is a TI-84 school. This means that our teachers are well-versed in the capabilities of these calculators and will use them in instruction. We strongly encourage you to purchase a TI-84 graphing calculator. These are readily available (and on sale right now!) at Target, Staples, Office Depot, and online at Amazon.com. The online DESMOS program will be available on the student's Chromebook.

There are other versions of graphing calculators made by TI. These are the **TI NSpire** and **TI NSpire CAS** which have different capabilities. Also, on the market are the **TI NSpire CX** and **TI NSpire CX CAS**. These "CX" versions have color screens and are rechargeable instead of using batteries.

If a student chooses to use a graphing calculator that is *not* in the TI series, then he or she is responsible for using the guidebook that came with the calculator to understand its operation. Any graphing calculator that a student uses must have the following minimum capabilities:

- Graph functions
- Find zeros of functions
- Create scatterplots, boxplots, histograms, and line graphs
- Calculate regression equations for linear, polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions
- Convert between decimal and fractional form

Having a calculator in math class every day is required for students to get the most out of classroom instruction. If you are unable to purchase a calculator, the student may check out a calculator from the math department by completing the form. If the calculator is damaged, broken or lost, the student will be charged a \$110 replacement fee. The math department has a *limited* number of calculators available for student check-out, so they will be checked out on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning the first Monday after our Back to School Night. Calculator forms are available from your current math teacher or outside room 140 after our Back to School night. Completed forms must be presented in order to check out a calculator! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** All forms require parent or guardian signature.

If there are any questions about obtaining a calculator, please contact your child's math teacher or Mrs. Hanby, the math department chairperson.