

To: 2017-18 AP Calculus AB & BC Students and their Parents/Guardians
From: Mr. Hobbs & Mrs. Lummis
Date: June 1st, 2017

Welcome to AP Calculus ☺ Below you will find some of the expectations for students enrolled in AP Calculus AB or BC for the 2017-2018 school year.

AP Calculus is a College course. AP Calculus AB is the first semester of the three semester calculus series offered at most universities; AP Calculus BC covers the first two semesters. To be eligible, each student must have earned a grade of B or Higher in Advanced Math (Advanced Math Analysis for AP Calculus BC) **and** have the teacher's recommendation. In addition, there is a summer packet to be completed by each student.

- 1) The summer packet can be found on the CNEC website with the other AP/Honors summer work. This packet is to be completed and handed-in to Mr. Hobbs/Mrs. Lummis at the **beginning** of the first class for the fall semester – it is worth several homework assignments.
- 2) Be prepared on the **first day of school for a test covering the summer packet material**. (Calculator will not be allowed for this test.) Refer to your notes from Advanced Math for assistance as you study. (No notes will be allowed during the test.)

Students that need help with their summer packet are invited to come to a study session on Thursday, August 17th from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm in Room 265 or Room 257.

Students are required to use a graphing calculator on the advanced placement exam in May; almost every test in this course also requires the use of a graphing calculator. Therefore students must have a graphing calculator and begin mastering its functions once the school year begins. The calculators we will instruct from are Texas Instruments; the TI-83 series, the TI-84 series, and the TI-89 series. The TI-83s and 84s do all the necessary functions and are very user friendly. The TI-89 is a more expensive machine and does a few more types of calculations; it is also more difficult to learn to use. Once mastered, the TI-89 does have some advantages over the TI-83s & TI-84s. {Suggestion for buying graphing calculators – wait until August, a week or two before school starts. There are Back to School sales each year, and graphing calculators will become more reasonably priced during this time. If you need any other advice in how to obtain a graphing calculator or which type to buy, please contact one of us via email: davidhobbs@cusd.com or jenniferlummis@cusd.com.} Once the graphing calculator is purchased, label it with the student's name.

Each student enrolled in AP Calculus AB/BC will have a major test at the beginning of May; however, every student that signs up and takes the AP Exam for Calculus AB/BC from the College Board will be excused from this test. The cost for those taking the AP Exam from the College Board is approximately \$94. (There is a significant fee reduction available for those that qualify.)

We would also like to encourage students and their parents/guardians to take a realistic look at the student's course schedule for next year. Advanced placement classes are very demanding, and AP Calculus will typically require one hour of homework every night. If a student has too many AP classes, sports practices, job responsibilities, or other commitments, it will be very difficult for success to occur.

We are looking forward to having each of you in class this fall. Calculus is a wonderful culmination of your high school math career. It will be exciting to see all the distinct pieces of knowledge you have gained in previous courses come together in a unified whole and more fully understand the usefulness and beauty of the mathematics you have learned.

Directions for the Summer Packet:

- This packet to be completed and handed-in to Hobbs/Lummis at the **beginning** of the first class for the fall semester.
- Valid and appropriate work must be shown in the packet or on separate paper attached to the packet.
- The answer to each problem **must** be easily identified. (*i.e.* circle the answer, make an answer column, or ...)