

AP CALCULUS INFORMATION SHEET

TESS RIVERO, NBCT

Welcome to another school year! I am glad you are in my AP Calculus class. Wednesday, May 7, 2014 is the day of the AP Calculus test. My goal is that every person in here earns *at least* a 3 on the AP test. I am pretty competitive, so I'd actually like to have the highest class average of all of the AP classes, too. I like to think of our class like a sport where I am your coach, homework & class work are practices, and tests (whether they're my tests or the BIG ones) are the games. You must practice like you expect to play. I saw a T-shirt at the store the other day that said this, "Play hard. Practice harder." That pretty much sums up my philosophy of learning.

Below, I have listed important information about our class. Please ask if you or your parents have any questions. The best way to reach me is via email: trivero@wayne-local.com.

Habits that will help you **SUCCEED** in AP Calculus

1. Participate fully in class activities. Be "on the field" playing the game- not "in the stands" watching what's going on. You can only win the game if you suit up & get on the field.
 - Be on time & be prepared with your materials. Would you show up to soccer practice without your cleats? No, so don't come to AP Calculus without your materials either!
 - You are responsible for your own learning. Take notes. Use highlighters and colors, and ASK QUESTIONS if you are not sure about something!
2. Take advantage of extra help sessions.
 - I am available every day before school. You are welcome to come to my room during your lunch period or study hall. If I have a class at the time, please just sit in the back & work. I'll come back and help you as soon as I can.
 - In the past, students with study halls have elected to spend their study hall in my room. See the tables in the back? They just bring their materials in here & study. They have access to a teacher or to other students who can help them. Also, the answer keys to homework are stored in here, so it's easy to check your homework. You don't have to work on just your math while you're in here; you can work on any subject. I encourage you to spend your study hall with me on a daily basis.
3. Use the class website (<http://rivero.weebly.com>), YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/spartanmath), and ShowMe website (www.showme.com search Tess Rivero).
 - I post *daily* class notes on the website. If you are absent, check the website before you come back to school. There is no need for the question, "What did I miss?" It is all posted online for you.
 - Check the website even if you're not absent. This year, I am not going to be making copies of worksheets to hand out in class. Everything is going to be posted online, so you will have to check the website to get handouts from time to time.
 - The YouTube channel and ShowMe site contain videos of worked out solutions to common questions. Some of these were recorded by me, but most of them were recorded by students of mine. If there is a specific problem you'd like to see worked out online, just let me know & I'll post it for you.
4. Communicate with me & with your peers.
 - Am I asking you to talk during class? No. I am asking you to write your work down when you're solving problems. I will not accept homework or tests or quizzes that do not have work. Communicating your ideas is important in all of your classes; you must be able to explain what you did and how you did it. I am not asking for you to write sentences (you can do that in English), but I am asking you to show the calculations that you make to arrive at your solution.
5. Be organized.
 - I require that you keep a 3-ring binder for this class. Don't keep your social studies homework in your binder... just math! We will spend a little bit of time in class organizing our binders, but it is very

important that you are organized. I challenge you to keep an organized binder for EVERY class! In addition to a binder, I also recommend that you keep a planner or organizer so that you can write down homework assignments (for all classes) and keep track of everything you need to do. I keep one of these myself; they are very useful.

6. **Trust me.**

- This is my 15th year teaching; 9th at Waynesville. I know what I'm doing, and I know what **you** need to do to be successful. Will I ask you to work harder than you've ever worked in a math class before? Probably. Will you have homework on the weekends? Yes. Will there be times when you really don't like me much? Maybe. But, you will leave my class in June with a solid understanding of mathematics and with more confidence in your abilities. Your math subscore on the ACT will improve, and you will be prepared for the AP Calculus test.

7. **Try**

- I don't expect that you remember everything from last year; however, I *do* expect you to know how to review old material on your own. I don't expect that you like math (although I bet you do if you've come this far!) I **do** expect that you **try** and that you give everything we do your **best** effort. Have a positive attitude; don't be afraid to make a mistake. Everyone makes mistakes. It's what we do *after* we make a mistake that counts. Don't quit. I know you can succeed.

Other Items I Need to Include But That You Probably Already Know:

Rules

1. You have to behave appropriately in my classroom. Respect others- students, me, and any substitutes or guests we might have. Stay in your seat unless I've given you permission to move around. Do *what* I ask you to do, *when* I ask you to do it.
2. Use portable electronic devices appropriately. There will be days when we use cell phones and iPods. All I ask is that you are using them for the lesson and not for texting, tweeting, instagramming, facebooking, etc.
3. School rules will be followed in my classroom and when you see me in the hallway. This includes the dress code.
4. Please don't talk when I'm talking or when a classmate is answering a question.

What happens if you break a rule? I handle discipline problems in my classroom; however, if there is a severe incident, you will be sent to the principal's office. Please note: **Not** participating in my class is grounds for punishment. It is called insubordination. If you have your head down on the desk, I'll ask you to pick it up & participate. I won't ask you twice; you'll be sent to the office if you don't comply. I'm not being *mean*- it's part of my rules. You have to participate!

How You'll Be Graded:

Quarter Grades:

80% Tests

20% Homework, classwork, open-note quizzes, participation, and attitude

*Consult the student handbook to see how your final grade will be computed.

Overview of Procedures & Policies

1. **At the beginning of class**, you'll come in and get started right away on *bellwork*. These are problems we use to “warm-up” our minds- just like you would before a practice. The bellwork problems will be on the Smart Board in the front of the room. Use your notes & textbook for these if you need to. We will have bellwork every day except on test days.
2. **During class**, you should take notes and try all problems. Write everything down, even if it doesn't make sense!! Keep your notes and all class materials in a binder. Periodically, I will give you quizzes on your binder. Being organized is very important!
3. **At the end of class**, please stay in your seat until the bell rings. Clean up the area around your seat. Throw away trash on your way out of the room.
4. **Homework and classwork** will be graded on *completion* only. We will go over answers during class and you will be able to ask questions, but I will not grade homework on *correctness*. Also, if homework is assigned on a Tuesday, it is due on Wednesday. I do not collect all of your homework on the day of the test. One last thing about homework... if you do not *show work* and *communicate* your solutions, then you will not get credit for the homework!!!
5. **Late work** will be accepted up to one week past the due date for half credit; however, I will not remind you to turn it in. You are responsible for meeting deadlines. After one week past the due date, the grade will be a zero.
6. **If you are absent**, check the webpage for notes and assignments. The webpage will be updated by 3pm each day. Read the notes & your textbook and *attempt* to do the work you missed. If there was a homework assignment due when you were absent, it is your responsibility to show me when you get back. I will most likely not remember to ask you to show me the homework. If you fail to show me the homework, it will be considered late work and will be deducted by 50%. The school policy for absences will be applied: for each day absent, the student has one day to make up the work. For example, if you are absent for three days, then you have three days to make up the work.
7. **If you miss a test for any reason (sick, sports, field trip, etc)**, you will take it the very next day you return to school (unless you are absent for an extended time period.) Most likely, the test will be in a very different format than the original test.
8. **If you miss the day BEFORE a test but not the test day itself**, you will still take the test on the assigned day. Tests are announced at least one week in advance; they will not come as a surprise.
9. **Tell me in advance** if you are going to be absent. You might know about college visits, field trips, etc.... communicate this to me so that I am not surprised when you're gone!!
10. **Tests must be completed in the 47 minute class period**. Unless there is official documentation, you must complete all tests during the normal class period. I write tests so that, if you know the material well, you will be able to finish during the class period.
11. **There are no test retakes in AP Calculus**. You will be allowed to drop your lowest test grade each quarter if you completed all assignments, reworked the test, and spent a designated amount of time with a math teacher or tutor.
12. **You must complete an error analysis for every test**. Please see the “Error Analysis” document for information on how to do this, and pay attention in class for due dates.
13. **If you are absent on the day of a test, you are not allowed to drop that test grade**. Per #7, you will take the test when you return to school; however, the grade you get on that test will remain in your overall grade. I do this because I post solutions to tests online the day of the test. If you're absent, you have access to those solutions as well as additional time to study.
14. **Accountability vouchers** must be turned in on the day of the summative assessment. An accountability voucher is a form that you fill out listing the formative assessments (homework, worksheets, etc) assigned throughout a unit. You check that these are completed, and you *and your parent* signs the form to indicate the assignments are complete. I will collect this voucher on the day of the summative assessment. I reserve the right to ask

to see any of the homework assignments for the unit, but you don't have to turn those in unless I ask for them. Completing this voucher is one step toward earning points back on your summative assessment!

15. You will need to have a **three-ring binder** dedicated solely to mathematics. This binder should have dividers named the following: homework, notes, bellwork, summative assessment & error analyses, and other. I will check binders at least once per quarter, and they are worth approximately 50 formative points. It is very important to be organized!
16. We will be using **technology** in this class quite a bit. Please make accounts on the following websites: Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org), Socrative (www.socrative.com), ClassZone (www.classzone.com), and ShowMe (www.showme.com). I will be attempting to send messages via Twitter. My Twitter username is @RiveroMath. You don't need a Twitter account to see what I post. Click on <https://twitter.com/RiveroMath>. Please follow me to receive important reminders about class!

By our signatures below, we acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the above information.

Student Signature

Parent Signature