



San Marin High School
Course Policies & Procedures
Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Course: Pre-Calculus	Room: 502
Instructor: Ms. Merkin	Phone: (415) 898-2121
Website: msmerkinmath.com	Email: jmerkin@nUSD.org

Course Description: *Precalculus (Prerequisite: "C- in Algebra 2")*

Welcome to precalculus! This course is designed to prepare students for the exciting and expansive world of calculus. Through application of concepts learned in algebra 1, geometry, and algebra 2 students will learn to derive a conceptual understanding of precalculus material. Students will study polynomials, exponentials, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Additional topics that will be covered during this course include vectors, polar coordinates, sequences, series and an introduction to limits and rates of change.

Course Outline:

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Unit 1: Functions	Unit 6: Applied Trig
Unit 2: Polynomials & Rationals	Unit 7: Analytical Trig
Unit 3: Exponentials & Logarithms	Unit 8: Polar
Unit 4: The Unit Circle	Unit 9: Vectors
Unit 5: Right Triangle Trig	Unit 10: Conics
	Unit 11: Sequences & Series
	Unit 12: Limits

Bring to Class Daily:

- A 1 or 1.5 Inch 3-Ring Binder
- Loose Leaf Graph Paper
- Pencils & Erasers
- Colored Correcting Pen
- Graphing Calculator (TI-83 or TI-84)
- Chromebook (Charged!)
- Chromebook Charger

Text:

Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus (6th Edition) by James Stewart, Lothar Redlin, and Saleem Watson

Grading Policy:

Grades will be posted in Aeries and will be accessible to both parents and students through the San Marin website (sanmarin.nusd.org) under the "Students" tab. Grades will be updated every two weeks.

Grades shall be reported at the end of each progress reporting period for all students. Progress reports will be accessible to parents online approximately every five to six weeks. Whenever a student falls below a C- after the second Progress Report for either semester, the teacher shall arrange a conference with the student's parent/ guardian and/or send a written report.

Grading Scale:

Category	Percentage
Homework	10%
Classwork & Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Tests	45%
Final Exam	15%

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100%
B	80 to 89%
C	70 to 79%
D	55 to 69%
F	Below 55%

Attendance:

It is necessary to come to class on time and prepared in order to be successful. However, we are all human and tardies and absences happen.

In the case of a tardy:

- Students are considered tardy if they are not in the room and seated by the second bell.
- If the student is tardy excessively, they will be referred to the Learning Lounge to go to a mandatory study hall.

In the case of an excused absence:

- Any homework or classwork must be turned in by the *following two class periods*. For example, if a student is absent on Wednesday, they have until Friday to turn in any work that was missed on Wednesday.
- If an exam or quiz was missed, the exam or quiz must be made up **the next day the student returns to class**.
- All handouts that may have been missed are located on my website to print or near the front of the classroom on the wall.
- If a student is absent for an extended period of time (longer than a week) please make an appointment with me to discuss make-up options.

Classwork and Homework:

There will be daily classwork assignments. Classwork may be accompanied by a warm up problem and notes. All assignments will be organized into a binder and logged in to a table of contents. Binders will be checked for quiz credit at the end of each unit.

Classwork assignments will be uploaded to Google Classroom. Each classwork assignment will be worth 5 points.

Each night there will be about 10 to 15 practice problems assigned for homework out of their eBook. The homework will be listed both on the whiteboard in class and on my website. Homework will be corrected at the start of each class and students will grade their homework based on the following 5-point rubric:

Score: ____ / 5	Description
5	Work is organized and all problems are completed. Each problem has a written out solution with all necessary steps and justifications included. Work contains little to no error.
4	All problems are completed. Each problem contains most of the necessary work and justification. Work contains some errors, but for the most part they were minor.
3	All problems are completed, but some key steps and explanations are missing. Work contains several errors.
2	Most problems are completed, but little to no work was shown. The solutions were essentially copied off of homework help.
1	A few of the problems were completed, but there is not a lot of work or justification provided for any of the solutions.
0	The assignment was not completed.

If an assignment is turned in late, the student will receive one point less based on the rubric scale. For example, if a student produced 4 level work, they would receive a 3. Late assignments will only be accepted if it is an assignment within the current unit, in other words once a unit ends no late work for that unit will be accepted.

Quizzes and Exams:

Each unit, there will be one to two quizzes and a summative assessment.

All exams will be comprised of free response questions in which students are expected to demonstrate their understanding and explain their reasoning. Each unit exam will be cumulative. At the end of each semester, students will take a comprehensive exam.

In the case a student is absent on the day of the exam, they will be taking the exam the next class day they are back. Students are responsible for any work or notes they miss on the day of the retake.

Advice for Success:

1. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are a part of the learning process and everyone makes them!
2. Come prepared for class. It is essential that you have what you need and come to class on time in order to be successful.
3. Ask questions! If you are not understanding something do not hesitate to ask questions or get some extra help.
4. Contribute to your team. The best way to learn math is in a collaborative environment. There will be a point in time that you will need to lean on your team for help and they may need to lean on you!