

# AP Calculus AB

2009-2010

## Teacher Information:

Mr. McDonald

Room Number: 307

Phone: 686-2234

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## Course Materials: (to be brought to class *daily*)

- Textbook: *Calculus: Single Variable*, Hughes-Hallet, Gleason, McCallum, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN: 9780470101438
- Organizational System: For example, a spiral notebook with a folder-cover for notes and a 3 ring binder for homework, handouts, worksheets, quizzes and exams (separated, of course). You'll be in college soon, find what suits you. Yes, you must have a system, and I must approve it.
- Paper and Pencil: Mistakes happen to everyone, being able to erase them is important. Please do not use spiral notebooks for homework, they tend to make a mess.
- Calculator: Half of the AP exam *requires* the use of a calculator and we will spend ample time in class learning how to use them. If you already own a TI-83/84, this will do, but I recommend the TI-89.
- Spiral Bound Index Cards, 3 x 5. You don't need to bring this to class every day, but it can be helpful (explained below).

## Grading:

Exams	50%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	25%
Participation/Effort	5%

Only grades of A or B will receive College Now credit through Lane Community College.

## Exams:

Exams for the entire semester are pre-scheduled and will be announced during the first week of school. Please try not to schedule commitments on those days, only excused absences will be allowed to make up the exam. Exam corrections will also be mandatory and will count as a homework assignment in the week following the return of the exam. The better you do, the less homework you have (more motivation to study)! There will be *no retakes* of any kind, so study hard the first time.

## Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given about once per week, usually on block days. Make up quizzes will only be given for excused absences, and in that case you must take the quiz the day you return to school. In addition to scheduled quizzes, pop-quizzes will be given occasionally without notice.

## Homework:

Homework will be assigned daily and "collected" daily. Students will be given a biweekly stamp sheet. Homework will be stamped daily (at the *beginning* of class). Point values will be 0,1,3 or 5 depending on completeness. Stamp sheets will be collected two weeks later (usually given Monday and collected Friday 11 days later). Your stamp sheet is *your* responsibility. Bring it to class *every*

*day* and be sure not to lose it. Homework assignments not receiving 5 points upon initial stamping can be completed by the following morning for half of the remaining points (0 to 2.5, 1 to 3 and 3 to 4). Study groups are a great way to learn mathematics; you are encouraged to work together on homework. Don't just copy answers, you will only hurt yourself, I promise.

On the day of each exam, you must turn in your spiral "theorem book". For each section we cover you do the following: On one card write all of the important definitions and/or theorems on the front side, and an easy example displaying how to use them on the back. This will be very handy when studying for the AP exam, and it will count as one fourth of your homework grade.

### **Participation/Effort:**

Your participation grade will be exactly as it sounds, you will lose points any time you are unprepared for class or disruptive in class. Being unprepared includes, not bringing your pencil, paper, book, stamp sheet, etc. to class. Periodic note checks will also be taken with or without warning. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain the days notes from a fellow student.

### **Powerschool and Web-Site:**

All course records will be kept on the Powerschool website. Please check it frequently to make sure that my records match yours. Class announcements and assignments will all be kept on my teacher web-site [http://teachers.marisths.org:81/mhs\\_tmcdonald](http://teachers.marisths.org:81/mhs_tmcdonald).

### **Academic Policies:**

1. It *is not* my job to interpret your answer. It *is* your job to communicate your thoughts clearly. Correct answers are not as important as the process of obtaining them. You will be graded on how well you communicate your solution (showing all work and taking the proper steps). In general, the more work you show, the more partial credit you can be given. Using the correct notation is *very* important, and it is a fundamental step in writing good solutions.
2. A common complaint in math courses is that none of the problems on the quiz or exam look just like problems from the homework. If you are getting good scores on homework and poor scores on the quizzes or exams it shows that you have learned specific techniques to solve some problems, but don't understand the concepts behind them. There is really only one way to fix this; do more problems. The only way to learn math is by doing, not by watching. Work in groups and explain solutions to each other, not only how, but why!
3. There will be assigned readings almost every night. Reading the book is not an option, it is a very important step in the learning process.
4. My best advice is to do as many problems as it takes for you to *understand*. There are plenty of problems in the book (with answers in the back) for you to do. There is not time to cover every possible type of problem you might encounter, so you need to understand the concepts rather than a single technique to solve one type of problem. The goal in this course is to improve your critical thinking skills, not to have you simply regurgitate steps from your notes. I will do my best to teach you all that you need to know, but ultimately you are responsible for your own education.
5. If you need help, get it as soon as possible. I will usually be in my office 45 minutes after school if you have any questions. Tutors can also be helpful if they are utilized properly.
6. Cheating is unacceptable and I will adhere to the cheating policy outlined in the student handbook. Help maintain the integrity of our school by respecting the work of others.
7. Electronic devices: Cell phones are not allowed in class. If I see it out, I will confiscate it and give it to the dean of students. MP3 players may be used during homework time as long as they do not become a distraction. If I see an earbud in your ear at any other time, you will lose music privileges and I will confiscate the MP3 player.

## Parental Support

Parents can help their son/daughter by providing support in the following areas:

- Check their assignment/stamp sheet regularly. Students should always have their updated assignment sheets in their notebooks. Homework is stamped daily so you can check their progress. Missing or mostly incomplete assignments will not receive a stamp.
- Encourage your student to seek help regularly. Parents usually know when their son/daughter is having difficulty with the subject matter. Please take the opportunity to encourage your student to get extra help before or after school. Please note that I encourage students to work together on homework assignments (this does not mean copying answers). This is a good practice even for those students who are not having trouble.
- All assignments as well as periodic announcements will be posted on my teacher web site: [http://teachers.marisths.org:81/mhs\\_tmcdonald](http://teachers.marisths.org:81/mhs_tmcdonald)

I have read and understood all of the classroom procedures and expectations.

Student name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name(s) (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following parent/guardian contact information:

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home/Work Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_