

D.C.C.S. Calculator Guide

D.C.C.S. Calculator Guide

High School Mathematics - 2008-2009



An appropriate calculator is an important tool in the mathematics program at DC. The information on this sheet is designed to guide you in making the proper purchase and to help you to understand the philosophy behind the calculator requirements. Please determine exactly what course your student will be taking in the fall before making any calculator purchase. All courses have exacting requirements on the choice of a calculator. *The back of this sheet gives a detailed listing of each course and the required calculator.*

Our calculator requirements reflect the philosophy that students learn best when they have a calculator whose features are appropriate for the current level of mathematics being studied. That requires changing calculators for most students as they move from the middle school to the high school, and probably again at the college level. Some parents would prefer to buy one calculator that will last the student through high school and college. Though this is an understandable desire, it is unrealistic. A calculator that is appropriate for a college student is most likely too sophisticated for a high school student to manage well. Also, since different college courses have different requirements, there is no way to know what your student is going to need in college.

Our approach is to choose the calculator that is most appropriate for the current grade level and encourage parents to pass it down to a younger sibling or sell it to an upcoming student when it is no longer needed. Following this procedure will ease the financial burden on families while giving each student the optimum tool for his or her current needs. It will also maximize the help each student receives in the classroom. By requiring all students in a given course to have the same calculator, our teachers can give classroom instruction to all students in using their calculator, without taking undue time away from the focus of the lesson. It also allows every student to have the same calculator with the same features available for taking tests.

The calculator requirements on this sheet apply only to the school year stated above. Each year the faculty will review and update the calculator selections. We will not make changes whimsically, but at times there will be changes that make it impossible for a particular calculator to be passed down to a younger sibling. This year, we are introducing a new calculator for Geometry students, the TI-Nspire. Consequently, we will gradually phase out the currently used TI-84+. All students who are required to buy the new TI-Nspire calculator will be able to continue using it for all of their future high school mathematics courses at DC (except for AP Calculus), provided they move through the program in the normal sequence. Similarly, students currently using the TI-84+ will be able to continue using it for all of their future high school mathematics courses at DC (except for AP Calculus), provided they move through the program in the normal sequence.

All required calculators are readily available from local retail stores. Please plan to make the purchase by late August so that your student will be able to begin the year with the proper calculator. Note that all AP Calculus students *must* have their calculator the first day of school.

If you have any questions about a calculator purchase, please direct your inquiries to the mathematics department head (ext 2324) or the teacher of the particular course. Thank you.

Mrs. Patricia Ahlborn
Mathematics Department Head

Accelerated

Honors

College Prep I College Prep II

Honors Algebra II

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

9

Honors Geometry

Required: Texas Instruments TI-Nspire (not TI-Nspire CAS)

Geometry

Required: Texas Instruments TI-Nspire (not TI-Nspire CAS)

OR

Algebra I

Required: Texas Instruments TI-30XS MultiView scientific calculator

Algebra I B

Required: Texas Instruments TI-30XS MultiView scientific calculator

Math Analysis

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

10

Honors Algebra II

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

Algebra II

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

Geometry

Required: Texas Instruments TI-Nspire (not TI-Nspire CAS)

Math Analysis

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

11

Math Analysis

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

Algebra II

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

Geometry

Required: Texas Instruments TI-Nspire (not TI-Nspire CAS)

AP Calculus

Required: Texas Instruments TI-89 Titanium

12

OR

Discrete Math

Required: Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84+

Math Analysis

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

OR

Discrete Math

Required: Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84+

Algebra III/Trig

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+

Algebra II

Required: Texas Instruments TI-84+