

# D.C.C.S. Calculator Guide

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### Middle School Mathematics - 2006-2007



An appropriate calculator is an important tool in the mathematics program at D.C. The information on this sheet is designed to help you make the best educational choice for your student and the most economical choice for your family. Most of the mathematics classes in the Middle School have the same calculator requirements. Please determine exactly what course your student will be taking in the fall before making any calculator purchase. Math 8H and all High School courses have exacting requirements on the choice of a calculator.

In general, it is unwise to buy a calculator that has many more features than your student will use this school year. Many parents want 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. The student may have difficulty performing even simple calculations. Since different college courses have different requirements, there is no way to know what your student is going to need in college. Also, technology is changing so rapidly that by the time your student gets to college, there will be new calculators with new features on the market that may well be required. Finally, it is a simple fact of life that students damage and lose calculators. A calculator bought in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade is unlikely to make it all the way to college.

A better approach seems to be to buy the calculator that is most appropriate for the current grade level and plan to pass it down to a younger sibling or sell it to an upcoming student at the end of the year. Following this procedure will ease the financial burden on your family while giving your student the optimum tool for his or her current needs. It will also maximize the help your student receives in the classroom. Our teachers give classroom instruction in using the recommended calculators to perform the tasks appropriate for the course. A student with a different kind of calculator will not benefit from that instruction and may be completely confused during such lessons. Teachers cannot provide classroom instruction in using multiple types of calculators.

The calculator recommendations and 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. Here are our requirements:

#### **Most Middle School Math Classes (All Except Math 8H – Honors Geometry)**

**Required:** Any scientific calculator

**Recommended:** Texas Instruments TI-30X IIS or Casio fx-300W Plus

**Not allowed:** Any kind of graphing calculator

#### **Honors Geometry (Math 8H)**

**Required:** Texas Instruments TI-84

All recommended or 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.

If you have any questions about a calculator purchase, please direct your inquiries to me ([mgarcia@dcccs.org](mailto:mgarcia@dcccs.org)) or the teacher of the particular course. Thank you.

Mrs. Maria E. Garcia  
Middle School Math Coordinator