

## From the CCHS Mathematics Department

# CALCULATORS

**What type of Calculator do students need?** Texas Instruments Graphing Calculators: Any of TI-83, TI-83Plus, TI-84 or TI-84Plus (Silver Edition is fine)

**What Classes require a TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator?** Algebra2, Pre-Calculus, and all Senior Courses (see NOTE below for Honors Geometry students) require a graphing calculator. For students who are enrolled in **Algebra 1**, any “4-function” calculator is fine. For students who are enrolled in **Geometry** (see NOTE below), any scientific calculator will do. However, for students in Geometry classes, there are reasons to purchase a graphing calculator now. See below.

NOTE: Students in *Honors* Geometry are generally expected to purchase a graphing calculator. Please check with your teacher.

**Should I purchase a calculator before Algebra 2?** -- Students use these calculators extensively throughout high school and often into college, so it would be a sound investment to buy one now. Students can begin to practice, and gain familiarity, with the calculator they will use in their Algebra 2 course, on the MCAS exam, and potentially the SAT or ACT tests. Moreover, they can write and share informational programs, such as those that use geometric formulas, and then access these programs on calculator-active tests and quizzes.

**Can I purchase a different model?** If you are considering a different model, please confer with your child’s teacher to determine if the calculator is appropriate. Some models do not have adequate capabilities. Other models are too comprehensive and, as a result, might not be permitted for some in-class assessments. For example, the TI-89 and TI-82, are not currently permitted on most of our assessments and the TI-85 is not well suited to high school mathematics. The TI-Inspire *is* compatible with the TI-83 and TI-84.

**What is the Cost of a TI 83 or TI 84?** The cost at Staples and Office Depot varies from \$99 - \$129. However, you may be able to purchase one from eBay or Amazon.com for less.

**Too Expensive???** – The Math Department has a few graphing calculators available to borrow for the school year. Send in a written request to your student’s teacher stating the financial need.

\*\* Be sure to label the calculator or keep a record of the serial number. Many calculators are lost during the year and we have no way to return them to the correct student. We have an engraver in the Math Office and can engrave your calculator as time permits.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Math Dept. Secretary (Ms. Panetta) at ext.7115 or contact the Math Dept. Chair (Ms. Ravalese) at ext.7154 or [sravalese@colonial.net](mailto:sravalese@colonial.net)