

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, PreCalculus, 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. Make sure you label your calculator or write down the serial number. Too Expensive??? – The Math Department has a few graphing calculators available to borrow for the school year. Please ask your teacher for a form that needs to be filled out. You can return the form to Ms. Gates in the Math Department room 416 or your teacher.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Math Dept. Secretary (Ms. Gates) at ext. 7416 or rbryantgates@concordcarlisle.org