

Reference Sheet for Honors PreCalculus: 2023-2024

Mrs. Cook

Room 122

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Contact Information: Phone: 903.291.2017 email: cookp@woisd.net conference: ____ period

See classblog for the following: Supply list, Remind, Link to class notes for when you are absent, weekly assignments (posted by Monday of each week), links to online homework help

Composition notebook (in the fall) 2-inch binder (for the spring) will become your living textbook. Since we do not have classroom textbooks, each of you will be building a textbook to take with you to your next math course. You will need to put everything that we do into a composition notebook/binder, which is why you will need tape and lots of it. This will include notes, activities, assignments, and quizzes. When the end of the semester comes and it's time to study for your exam, you will have everything you need in your CN/binder. DATE and TITLE everything that we do. Learn to be organized if you are not an organized person.

Assignments are given for you to practice what we learn. Assignments will be done in your composition notebook/binder with the problems either handwritten by you or taped onto the page of you cn. Assignments will be graded at the start of class on the due date (which is generally the next day). Answers only with no justifying work shown are called "bald answers" and are considered as unanswered problems and counted as incorrect. Assignments count as 40% of your grade.

If you are absent, please do the assignment on notebook paper so that it can be turned in to me. Save a space in your CN to tape it when returned. We follow the WOHS policy for when absent work is due.

If class time is given/available to do the assignments, then class time will be used to work on assignments. DO NOT waste the time I give you in class. The last 5 minutes are not visiting hours or for checking/posting on your social media. You do not need 5 minutes to put your stuff away. You need maybe a minute.

Quizzes are given for me to measure what you have learned. Quizzes will be given regularly. They can be long or short in length. They might even include assigned homework problems. If you are doing your work and understanding, quizzes will not be a big deal. If you are absent on quiz day, you will need to make up the quiz either in class, or before/after school. If you do not make up the quiz, it will be a zero. Quizzes are equivalent to two homework grades in the gradebook and are a part of the 40% of your grade.

p.s. your class's quiz will probably not be the same as another class's quiz since there are those of you that share classified information. same goes for tests.

Tests are given for me to measure what you have retained. Because I announce tests at least a week in advance, you will take the test even if you are absent on review day. An exception to taking a test on its scheduled day will be if you were absent due to illness and missed several days of instruction. I will work with that situation individually. Any test not taken on test day WILL NOT be the same test as the one given in class. You will take a make-up test that will be equivalent to the one the class took, hopefully. It won't be any easier if that's what you're hoping. Tests count as 60% of your grade.

ON test day, you will turn in your test when the bell rings at the end of class. If you need more time, you should have studied better. If you do not know how to study for a math test, see me well in advance of the test.

Do not wait until the morning of the test to learn the material. It is too late then. If you will do your work everyday, studying for a test will not be a chore. If you are doing well on quizzes, you should do well on tests.

Test reassessment POLICY: At the end of each grading period, a cumulative test will be given to all students. The grade will be used as a test grade AND it will also be used to replace the lowest test grade in the corresponding grading period. If the cumulative test is the lowest test grade, it will be counted as a single test grade. If the cumulative test replaces a lower test grade, it will be counted as two test grades.

Are you going to college? Use this year to learn how to study. Make it your goal to learn the material and not just to make the grade for the day. It will pay off for you as you take the ACT/SAT/TSI and when you take your college courses.

Grades are given so that everyone knows you know something about the subject you took: colleges want to know if you know it, parents want to brag that you know it (or ground you, whatever applies), school sponsors and coaches want you to know it so you can participate in that extracurricular thing you signed up to do, EVERYONE Is watching! And PLEASE do NOT come to me the last day of the grading period asking to turn in a zero. I don't care if you were absent, well I do but..., get your business taken care of when it is supposed to be done. I do not change zeros once they are posted. Please let mom and dad know this too. The RESPONSIBILITY is on you to get your assignments to me within the allowed time!

An honors student is expected to stay on top of their assignments and do them as assigned.

If you are in extracurricular activities and NO PASS/NO PLAY will affect you, it is your responsibility to do everything you can to keep your grade up. A big part of that is doing the work you're given the first time. AND turning in the work you missed on time. Get a calendar to help you keep up with what you missed and when it is due.

Extra Credit: THERE IS NONE!!! Please don't come and ask me for any. If you need extra credit to pass, you shouldn't be in this class. If a basketball game depends on the last shot to win, that's a lot of pressure and that's not a good situation in which to be. Stay ahead of the game! And besides, in the big picture, one measly grade is not going to affect a thing. BTW, that applies to a blown daily grade. At the end of the nine weeks it won't matter, so please don't sweat it or cry over it. There is no crying in math class.

Absence policy if you must be absent, I follow the WOHS Student Handbook's absence policy:

of days out = # of days allowed to make it up
70-50-0 rule applies to all

You are expected to check the blog for assignments and to go to the link to the notes any time you are absent and for whatever reason you are absent. Or get them from a trusted friend. Have the notes copied and the assignment attempted by the time you return. Remember to do this assignment on notebook paper so that you can turn it in. Tape it in your CN when it is returned. If you need more instruction, come by before school.

DO NOT WAIT FOR CLASS TO ASK, "WHAT DID WE DO YESTERDAY?"

Being absent is not an excuse to come to class unprepared.

Also remember to turn in/have graded any assignment that was due on the day of your absence.

If you are out for extracurricular activities, get the notes and the assignment before you leave! I will have worksheets ready for you ahead of time if you will give me prior notice.

Our class builds new knowledge EVERYDAY. Make it easier on yourself when you return to have your notes copied and as much of the assignments done as possible. What you missed could be FOUNDATIONAL for what we are doing when you come back into the classroom.

Class continues whether you are here or not. Go to the blog, get it, print it, do it, turn it in.

I am available every morning from 7:30 am until 7:55 am for any questions. If you have too many questions to answer in class, you need to come in the morning to get extra help. I will only answer questions if you have gotten the notes from the blog or from a friend.

I am not available during enrichment to answer questions. I have other responsibilities assigned to me during that time.

Cheating should never occur! If you feel the need to cheat, perhaps you are in the wrong class. If you are truly struggling, either get help or get out and get into something that you can do. If you intend on taking Calculus next year and you DO NOT learn PreCalculus, you will NOT survive past the first three weeks of that class. There are consequences to cheating; the one that shows up the most is that you fail the tests. Your daily grades will not carry your average to passing. You must learn the math.

Phones and smart watches Please don't make me the phone police, police yourselves. Don't try to hide them either, be a grown up and put it away. you will survive 45 minutes without it, I promise. It's a matter of respect. I will let you know when you will need them for something we are doing class.

Calculators are tools to use and not crutches to lean on. There will be lots of assignments/tests/quizzes where you will not be allowed the use of your calculator. Why? the AP Calculus test only uses them for about 30% of the whole test.

They expect you to know how to do arithmetic and so do I.

PARENTS AND PHONES: Parents, please do not text or call during class time. If you have an emergency, please call the school office. One year I had a mom continually text their child during class, getting angry that this student wasn't responding. It was a complete disruption of my class and really put the student in a very difficult position. Their focus and the focus of the entire classroom was lost. It was not an emergency. The parent wanted to know what their child wanted for lunch. Please respect my class time, your student's desire to respect you, and consider that we must all follow the school rules.

- Read through the highlights of this document with your parental units.
- Have them email me from their email address BY THE THIRD DAY OF SCHOOL. Not later in the nine weeks.
- This is a ONE-time opportunity! Your first grade could be a 100.
- Please have them include their name and your name in the message.
- Please have them check Skyward to make sure that their email is correct and up to date so that if they are contacted, they are receiving the email.
- If they do not have an email, they can return this slip with their printed name and signature.

Printed Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Printed Student Name: _____