



**Pre-Calculus  
Course Syllabus – Spring 2010  
Mrs. White**

**Course:** PreCalculus

**Text:** PreCalculus: A Graphing Approach by Holt, Rinehart and Winston 2006

**Prerequisites:** C-/78 Average in Algebra 2/Trigonometry or Integrated Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry

**Course Goals:** Students will solve equations of all types, work with vectors, conic sections and advanced trigonometric identities and study polynomials and their solutions. Emphasis will be placed on graphic interpretation of functions and creative problem solving will be stressed. Students will prepare for Honors Calculus.

**Methods:** Instructional methods will consist of lectures, multimedia presentations, small group problem solving, and other methods to maximize concept development and student growth in mathematics. Students will be afforded class time for active questioning and for guided problem-solving.

**Materials:** Students will be required to bring to each class the textbook, pencils, paper, graph paper, a notebook (a loose-leaf notebook is preferred), straight-edge, and a **graphing** calculator. **Note:** TI-83 or TI-84 calculators are preferred. Other graphing calculators are acceptable with the understanding that the student must become very familiar with the operating manual for the particular model. Calculators capable of performing symbolic manipulations (e.g., TI-89) are not permitted. . Some calculators have games installed. Students who play games on their calculators during class time will have their calculators turned over to the Math Department Chair who will return the calculator after a conference with the student and/or his/her parent.

**Assignments:** Students will be provided a schedule of all assignments at the start of the course. All assignments are due as scheduled. Students will be assigned homework problems following each lesson. Students are encouraged to work together and seek help from the teacher, parents and tutors but should not record and submit solutions to problems that they do not understand. Use of published or internet resources other than the issued text must receive prior approval from the teacher. Homework assignments will be checked daily for completeness and correctness. Unannounced quizzes for all students and “challenge problems” for will be administered on a routine basis. Students are expected to be able to solve certain problems with and without a calculator.

**Evaluation:** Each marking period will include approximately 7 tests. A calendar will be given to each student indicating the test days and the lessons through which the test material will cover. Homework and quizzes account for 30% of the student’s weekly grade with tests accounting for the remaining 70% of the weekly grade. Weekly grades are cumulative and will account for 80% of each half term grade with the mid-term/final exam counting for 20% of the half-term grades. The average of both half-term grades will determine the final course grade.

**Make-up Work:** The Parent/Student handbook gives general guidelines for making up missing work. **The primary responsibility for making up missed work rests with the student.** The following specific procedures in my class should be noted:

- **For absences of fewer than three academic days** - All homework due during the period of absence will be graded by the student and submitted upon return to class. Missed tests and quizzes will generally be made up **after school within 2 days** of return to class.
- **For longer, unplanned absences** – Students will submit a written proposal with a timetable for the makeup of missed work. The proposal/timetable will be reviewed and approved or amended by me, and must then be executed by the student. Failure to meet the timetable will result in a grade of zero being assigned for that particular piece of homework, quiz, or test.
- **For extended planned absences** – Students are responsible for determining, completing, and submitting all assignments due during the absence **prior to their departure unless other arrangements have been made with me.**

**PCHS Honor Code:** The PCHS Honor Code is based on the premise that PCHS students will not cheat, lie or steal, nor tolerate those who do. During the PreCalculus course, the following expectations will apply:

- ⇒ **Tests and Quizzes:** All work must be performed individually using only the resources specifically authorized by the teacher. In this regard, use of the calculator is authorized unless specifically prohibited by the teacher or by test/quiz instructions. However, student-generated mathematical programs are not permitted and will not be placed on the calculator.
- ⇒ **Homework Assignments:** As stated above, unless otherwise directed, students are encouraged to complete homework assignments cooperatively with other students, teachers, parents and tutors as a means to enhance the learning and mastery process. On the other hand, the mere copying of another’s work for submission and grading is prohibited by the Honor Code.