

B.M.C. Durfee High School Honors Precalculus Course Syllabus 2012-2013

Course: Precalculus (10301)
Credits: 1

Instructor: Mrs. Brogan-Price

Room #: 334

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Web Page: <http://fallriverschools.org/jbrogan-price.cfm>

School Phone Number: 508-675-8100 x2089

Course Description: Precalculus combines the trigonometric, geometric, and algebraic techniques needed to prepare students for the study of calculus, and strengthens students' conceptual understanding of problems and mathematical reasoning in solving problems. Facility with these topics is especially important for students intending to study calculus, physics, and other sciences, and/or engineering in college.

For this Precalculus course, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) extend work with complex numbers; (2) expand understanding of logarithms and exponential functions; (3) use characteristics of polynomial and rational functions to sketch graphs of those functions; and (4) perform operations with vectors.

A graphing calculator is required.

Classroom Materials

You are *required* to have the following items with them in class on a daily basis:

- Pencils with erasers
- 3-Ring Binder with lined and graph paper
- Graphing Calculator

You will be required to have your binder with you on a daily basis and will be given a grade for your binder. This will be the most important resource that you will use this year!

Textbook: Precalculus

Publisher: Glencoe

Textbook Website: <http://www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com>

Important Information

Important information will be posted on the Durfee Mathematics Department website at <http://www.fallriverschools.org/mathdept.cfm>. Homework for my class, resources for the class, and assessment dates will be posted at <http://www.fallriverschools.org/jbroganprice.cfm>. This homework will be updated on a weekly basis. Remember, I can be reached by e-mail at jbrogan@fallriverschools.org if you have any questions.

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Student Expectations

Responsibilities of students:

- Come to class on time, prepared and ready to learn.
- Treat all people in the classroom with common courtesy and respect.
- Participate in class to the best of your ability.
- Remain quiet and in their seats until they are dismissed by the teacher at the end of class.
- Maintain a personal standard of academic ethics.
- In no way participate or give the appearance of contributing to any cheating, copying, or plagiarizing.
- Communicate with their parents/guardians about their progress in the course.
- Aim for success!!! Do your best to successfully complete the course and aim for an "A"!

Daily Classroom Procedures

Before Entering the Classroom:

- Use the restroom. Students will not be allowed to use the restroom while the lesson is being given (unless there is an emergency).
- Make sure you have your textbook, binder, pencil, calculator, and completed assignments.

When You First Enter the Classroom:

- Turn in your homework.
- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Place everything but the instructional materials on the floor.
- Begin "warm up" problems as part of the next assignment while attendance is being taken.

When You Leave the Classroom:

- Make sure you have written down the homework.
- Leave your desk area clean.
- Return any supplies that you used to the teacher.

Grading Criteria

In accordance with the policy at B.M.C. Durfee High School, the letter grades, along with the corresponding numerical grades, are listed below.

A+ (100-97)	A (96-93)	A- (92-90)
B+ (89-87)	B (86-83)	B- (82-80)
C+ (79-77)	C (76-73)	C- (72-70)
D+ (69-67)	D (66-63)	D- (62-60)
	F (59 and below)	

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The **classroom grade for each term** is broken down as follows (This is subject to change based on changes to school/department policy. You will be notified immediately of any changes made to the grading procedure.)

- Quarterly Exam = 15%
- Formal Assessments = 60%
 - Tests = 40%
 - Quizzes = 20%
- Classwork & Homework = 25%

Your grade for the **year** is broken down as follows:

- Term I = 25%
- Term II = 25%
- Term III = 25%
- Term IV = 25%

In accordance with school policy, you will receive progress reports from all teachers at the mid point of each quarter. If you would like a detailed progress report that includes all grades recorded up to that point, you must request this from me. I will do my best to provide this to you within one to two days of the request.

Tests and Quizzes

Quizzes will be given on a regular basis. *Quizzes may or may not be announced*, so be prepared by asking questions if you do not understand something. You must show all your work on quizzes to receive full credit.

Tests will be cumulative in nature so be sure that you keep reviewing prior topics that have been covered. Tests will be announced at least two days prior to the day that it is given. You will receive review questions prior to each test in order to prepare you for the test. You will be expected to complete these problems and ask any questions prior to the test. I will not answer questions during the test!

Test questions will be any combination of open response, short answer, multiple choice, true/false, or matching. You will be given credit only for answers that show work. You will not be given credit for problems with no work, regardless if the answer is correct.

Notebooks and books will **not** be allowed during a test or quiz. Formula sheets will only be allowed if provided by the teacher.

You must keep all returned tests and quizzes in your binder! Do not throw away any assignment!

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of learning mathematics and will be assigned daily. Homework should be done in pencil in order to allow you to easily fix any mistakes that you have made. Every assigned problem should be tried and the answer checked. It is permissible to discuss problems with other students

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or relatives. It is not permissible to copy another student's work. Do your best to think through the problems and understand why things work the way they do.

Because this is an upper level math course, I may assign odd problems from the book in order for you to check your answers before you come to class. When I check your homework, I expect to see all of the work for the problem, not just the answer. The problem, the work, and the answer should all be shown neatly together. You will not receive credit for homework that is turned in without work for EVERY problem.

There may be problems that are unusually difficult that I have not prepared you for. Doing homework may make you frustrated. That is ok. I am hoping that the homework will challenge you to think. Thinking is part of learning! If you are having difficulty with your homework, keep the following in mind:

- Write down what you know.
- Write down what the problem is asking you to do.
- Look through your notes for examples.
- Re-READ the current section of your textbook, your notes and possibly other sections. This implies that you are already reading each section. **THE EXAMPLES IN OUR TEXTBOOK ARE EXTREMELY GOOD. USE THEM AS A GUIDE.**
- Get familiar with the glossary and index of a book -- these can come in handy when you are searching the book for a topic.
- If you are still lost, please come and ask questions.

Working together on classwork and homework is encouraged but copying is prohibited. Be careful when you ask another student for help. Make sure that **YOU UNDERSTAND** the solution. Putting an answer on your paper means that **YOU** understood that problem and could explain it to the entire class. Remember that there are school policies about copying.

All homework must be done on loose-leaf paper. **Please label your homework with your name, the date, page # and problem #'s in the top right hand corner of each assignment.**

Homework should take anywhere from 20 minutes to 30 minutes, depending on the type of assignment. **Homework will be checked daily as you enter the class.** You will not be allowed to complete homework at the beginning of class! All homework assignments that are complete will receive a checkmark. Homework should be corrected and added to as the material is better understood. Completeness, accuracy, and effort will all be considered. A student may earn extra homework points by demonstrating problems at the board.

Quarterly Exams

Students will be given a quarterly exam each term. These exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and open response questions, similar in format to MCAS. These exams will be cumulative, including questions from the current term and all prior terms. **These exams will be counted as 15% of the term grade!** Please be aware that this has the potential to greatly impact your term grade. You will be given a required review packet prior to the exam to help you prepare for it.

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Binder Requirements

The following sections must be present in your binder:

- Dated Notes
- Vocabulary
- Tests & Quizzes
- Classwork/Homework
- Other

Your binder will be graded based on a rubric that has been attached to the end of this document. Your binders will be collected and graded at the mid-term and end of each term, so please keep it organized!

Make-Up Work/Incomplete Grades Guidelines

All students will have their own individual folder in a crate in the back of the classroom. If a worksheet is missed, it will be placed in the folder. It is the student's responsibility for checking his or her folder after an absence. Please refer to the student handbook for the school policy for making up missed work.

Tardiness Policy

On your first unexcused tardiness to class, you will be given a warning. After two unexcused tardies, you will be required to stay after school with the teacher the following day to make up the time that you have missed in class. If tardiness becomes a repeat offense, you will be referred to the office.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

In accordance with school policy,

- Cell phones, pagers, beepers, CD players, DVD players, radios, picture cameras, camera phones, camcorders, laser pointers, and other electronic devices identified by the school administration ***must not be audible or visible during the school day and must be turned off***. These devices will be taken if they are seen or heard.
- PDA's, graphing calculators and other handheld devices shall not be used for exchanging information, personal e-mail, playing games, or chatting unless sanctioned by a classroom teacher as part of an instructional exercise.

Field Trips

Students attending field trips are responsible for notifying their teachers in advance and are required to complete assignments in preparation for the next class. Students are expected to take any test or quiz that is missed because of a field trip on the next class day. The student will be expected to keep up with the current work at the same time!

If a field trip is scheduled to be more than one day, you must notify the teacher one week in advance of the trip in order for assignments to be ready. It is the student's responsibility to ask for this work! Please keep your field trips to a minimum! It is very important to be in class for instruction.

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Academic Dishonesty

Cheating will not be tolerated. Copying work, looking at another person's test/quiz paper, asking for help during a test or quiz are all forms of cheating. **Consequences for academic dishonesty include a zero on the assignment, notification of your parent/guardian, and documentation in your student file.** Repeat offenders will be referred to the Vice Principal for disciplinary action. Please be aware that academic dishonesty may impact your ability to be accepted into college.

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Please sign and return only this page of the syllabus. If you do not return this page signed within one week, you will receive a zero for a quiz grade and your parent/guardian will be contacted.

This year's Honors Precalculus class will not be the same as it has in the past. The state has adopted more stringent standards known as the Common Core Standards. The rigor and pace of the class will be much different than what students may be accustomed to. It is very important that students take notes, do their homework, and participate in class!

I have read all of the information in the course syllabus and agree to abide by all of the items listed. I agree to take notes in class, participate in class, complete the classwork, and to do all homework assigned to me. I understand that failure to do my work will result in a failing grade for this course.

Student Signature

Date

I have read all of the information in the course syllabus. As a parent/guardian, I understand that it is my responsibility to motivate my child in putting his/her best effort into the challenging study of Precalculus.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

e-mail address

Contact Number