

**Course Title:** Pre-Calculus Honors

**Teacher:** Judith Buzzell

**Room Number:** 308

**Planning Periods:** 11:50 am – 12:50 pm and 2:10 pm – 3:05 pm

**Phone number:** 843-237-9899 extension 2308

**E-mail address:** [jbuzzell@gcsd.k12.sc.us](mailto:jbuzzell@gcsd.k12.sc.us)

**Extra Help:** Wednesdays 3:05 – 3:45

## Course Overview

This is a college preparatory class intended for highly motivated and/or mathematically competent students (who intend to take Calculus). Pre-calculus focuses on the development of the student's understanding of functions and ability to apply advanced mathematical techniques to solve problems. Emphasis will be placed on exploring polynomial, rational, exponential, radical, and trigonometric functions and their applications in solving real world problems. Other topics of study are analytic geometry which includes conic sections and vectors and linear algebra which involves working with matrices. A variety of approaches will be used, including extensive use of graphing calculators, to help students model and solve problems. Prerequisites: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and basic math WITHOUT a calculator.

## Materials Needed

- Three-ring binder (1 or 1 ½ inch), dividers for binder
- Graph paper/notebook paper
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Scientific or graphing calculator (TI-83 Plus, TI-84 Plus or TI-Inspire) **The graphing calculator is not required, but recommended. I do have a class set that you may use.**

## Grading System

- **Daily Practice** (This would include any warm ups, classwork, and homework.) 20%
- **Quizzes** Announced and unannounced (This would also include FALs) 30%
- **Major Assessments** (This would include chapter tests and projects) 50%
- **Final Exam (20% of final grade/You may exempt if you maintain an A average for the year.)**

## Grading Scale

- A: 90- 100
- B: 80 – 89
- C: 70 – 79
- D: 60 – 69
- F: 59 and below

## Second Chance Policy

If a student earns a grade below 85% on any major test, the student will be allowed to take a different version of the test which will be averaged with the original test grade. The highest grade that may be attained is an 85%. **The retest must be taken within 3 days of the original test.** These re-takes must be completed in the teacher's classroom after school or during lunch and are subject to the teacher's availability.

### **VERY IMPORTANT**

If the student is absent 30% or more of the days over which a given unit of instruction is taught, the student will lose the benefits of the second chance policy for that unit.

## Class Behavior

No student will be allowed to interfere with a fellow student's right to learn. Therefore, each student is expected to respect the teacher and fellow students and behave appropriately.

### Expectations

- Be on time/prepared for class
- Participate in class/complete all work
- Respect others' ideas, feelings, and property
- Follow all school and district policies

### Consequences

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Verbal warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Teacher-student conference
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Teacher-parent conference
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Referral to administration

## Cell Phone Policy

Due to ever increasing capabilities of cellphones and the distractions they offer, they are not to be used in the classroom. In order to lessen interruptions during instruction, students' cellphones will be collected at the beginning of class and will be housed in a secure area during the instructional period. Any phone that is not turned in and is seen or heard during instructional time will be confiscated and turned in to administration. There will be no exceptions and no second chances. Students who refuse to comply will be referred to administration. This policy also applies to iPods, tablets and electronic readers.

## Homework

Homework will be assigned daily and a grade will be assigned based on either 100% completion (no deductions), more than half complete (--2 points) or a zero (--5 points). Completion means that appropriate work is shown and all the problems were attempted. Late homework will not be accepted and will earn a grade of zero.

## Absences

**One Day Absence:** At home assignments will be accepted for full credit the day of return. If the absence is unexcused, the student will be awarded a 0 for any work missed in class the day of absence. If the student does not have an admit slip from the school office indicating that the absence is excused, the absence will be deemed unexcused. Students must always go to the office and get an admit slip when returning from an absence. Missed work must be made up or turned in within an appropriate time limit as set by the teacher.

**Multiple Days Absence:** Any assignments turned in the day of the student's return will be awarded full credit. Depending on the nature and duration of the absence, the student must meet with the teacher to establish a plan for making up all graded work that was missed. A reasonable schedule for making up the work will be established and must be adhered to by the student in order to receive full credit.

## Online Access to Textbook and Assignments

- The online text book can be found at : [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com)
- Webcode: aze-0643
- I use **Remind** to send out daily homework assignments and reminders of upcoming dates. You will be given your code in class. Parents may sign up as well. These assignments will also be posted weekly on my website.

**I am looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year!! Thank you for your cooperation and support,**

**Judith Buzzell**