

Spotswood High School

Mathematics Department

To: All Students going into AP Statistics
From: The AP Statistics Teacher – Mr. Marvinny
Re: Summer Project 2017.
Date: June 2017

Welcome to the world of AP Statistics. Attached you will find an assignment to be completed over the summer. For many of you, statistics is a new field of study. We have 26 chapters worth of material to cover in a short amount of time, so I am asking you to do the first chapter of introductory material over the summer. It will be best if you start it later in the summer, so it is fresh in your mind when you return to school.

To be successful, a student needs a strong Algebra 2 background, excellent attendance, classroom and study habits, time and motivation to complete all daily work, and a commitment to make the most of this opportunity.

4 TIPS THAT VIRTUALLY ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL MATH EXPERIENCE...

- **Before, not after.** Read the section and attempt assignments prior to the ideas being discussed in class. Know what might be difficult...before you get to class.
- **Now, not then.** Don't wait until you're lost to get help. See me or a tutor right away.
- **All, not some.** You have to be a maniac about math homework. Do all the assigned problems...and more.
- **Sooner, not later.** No matter how well you understand things in class, waiting too long to practice the material can get yourself confused. Stay up to date with your work.

Mathematics is like sports. It is impossible to flawlessly perform a skill the first time you try it. Similarly, an exam is the worst time to attempt a specific type of problem for the first time. Both sports and math have necessary practice time, and by practicing well, superior performances are more likely. Exams can then be your showcases, or games, where you can show everyone how good you are.

ADVANCED MATHEMATICS IS UNIQUE...

- It requires a discipline you don't get as part of everyday life
- If you fall behind, it can be difficult to catch up
- Class attendance is essential. It is tough to duplicate my class on your own.
- Reading the book is necessary. Luckily ours is very readable.
- The goal is mastery of the material. The standard of success is not 'attendance', 'trying hard', 'having a good attitude', or 'doing the work'. Those are things all of you are expected to do. The result we want is learning, understanding, and mastering the material.

SUCCESS AND MASTERY DEPEND ON MANY FACTORS...

- Years of previous effort, REAL learning, and memory of learned material
- Effort level
- Attitude
- Aptitude
- Classroom skills
- Homework skills
- Attendance
- Study skills
- Time management

HOMEWORK...

- Is a tool for learning, practicing, growing. If you also get to score points...bonus!
- Gets done on time or not...either choice has consequences
- Gets done with quality or not...either choice comes with consequences
- Is a record of your effort, methods, and your solutions. A list of unsupported answers won't help you learn well and indicates a weak effort.
- Will help you to be successful in this class.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM...

- Co-curricular activities, sports, and/or jobs are great ways to learn many skills. Research shows that involvement in these activities lead to success later in life, BUT these are never excuses for sloppy academic performance. Set your priorities and get the job done...well.
- All opportunities come with responsibilities...live up to them

This is very different than other math class you will ever take. In fact, some may not even call it a math course. You will be doing a lot of reading and writing. In fact, ask any of the people who previously took the class, they will tell you, there is not a lot of math. Not only that, but according to some, math is not the hardest part of this class.

Graphing Calculators will be used extensively throughout this course and are a tremendous aid in understanding the material. I strongly recommend students purchase their own Texas Instrument 83/84 or Texas Instrument 83/84-Plus Graphing Calculator. (I have a set which may be used during class, but I may not be able to lend them to you for use outside class.)

A FINAL NOTE...

Statistics is an interesting subject. It takes hard work to be a serious student of serious mathematics. I offer my sincere appreciation for your efforts, thank you in advance for you work, and congratulations on your successes. You wouldn't be here right now if you haven't already been successful.

Good luck and have a happy and safe summer!!!!

Sincerely,
Mr. Marvinny

AP Statistics Summer Assignment

1. Read the preface of your textbook and read and outline Ch. 1. Be prepared to take a quiz on your reading on the first day of school.
2. pg. 11-14 #'s 14, 18, 22, 26
3. Find 2 articles in a newspaper, magazine, or on the internet that involves the reporting of a statistical study. It cannot be from a medical or research journal, it must be an article that summarizes a study. Write a few paragraphs describing what the article was about and address the W's of the study.

Good luck!!!!