

## **What type of calculator should I buy?**

**Algebra:** A graphing calculator will be used often in this class. The school does possess a classroom set of TI-84's which students can use if available. However, it would be beneficial for students to obtain their own graphing calculator if possible.

**Geometry:** The primary use of a calculator in Geometry will be for doing basic calculations. A \$10 scientific calculator from Wal-Mart will suffice nicely as long as it is equipped with trigonometric functions: sin, cos, and tan. However, if your child is planning on taking additional math courses and is planning on purchasing a graphing calculator later on, it might be advisable to make that purchase now.

**Advanced Algebra:** A graphing calculator will be used often in this class. The school does possess a classroom set of TI-84's which students can use if available. However, it would be beneficial for students to obtain their own graphing calculator if possible.

**Pre-Calculus:** A graphing calculator will be used on a daily basis and is a tool that students will be expected to have access to. The school does possess a classroom set of TI-84's which students can use if available. If students are unable to purchase a calculator, there is access to online software that can be used, or arrangements can be made with the instructor to check out a calculator.

**Calculus:** A graphing calculator will be a necessity in order to complete homework assignments and tests. The TI-89, TI-92, TI Voyage and TI-Nspire CAS are all calculators that all possess the required capabilities, however only the TI-89 and the TI-Nspire CAS are permitted on the AP Calculus Exam.

**Below are some of my own thoughts regarding some of the different possible choices of TI products.**

**The TI-85 is a model that has been discontinued. It will do all of the basic graphing commands that are required in math classes. The primary drawbacks to the TI-85 are that it has no table and that its resolution is not as sharp as other models.**

**The TI-86 is the newer version of the TI-85. It **DOES** possess the ability to display data in a table and the graphics are much better. A TI-86 probably provides the most bang for your buck if you buy used.**

**The TI-83 and TI-84 are nearly identical to one another. The main difference between them is that the TI-84 has far greater memory space and processor speed. The TI-84 also possesses a USB port that permits it to be easily connected to a computer as well as data collection devices. The TI-83 and TI-84 key strokes are identical.**

**SINCE MOST MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE TI-84 AT GILBERT, IT WILL BE EASIEST FOR STUDENTS TO FOLLOW CLASSROOM DIRECTIONS IF THEY HAVE A TI-83 OR TI-84.**

**Both the 83 and 84 have many useful statistical programs that accompany them as well.**

**The The TI-Nspire is the latest and greatest calculator on the market. It provides new dynamic technology that allows for more student interaction and self discovery. It comes with an interchangeable faceplate that allows it to transform into the TI-84 calculator as well.**

**The TI-89 is a calculator that is only necessary if your student plans on taking courses in Calculus or beyond. It possesses a computer Algebra System (CAS) that allows you to calculate both definite and indefinite integrals as well as derivatives.**

**If spending over \$100 on a new graphing calculator does not sound like something you would like to do, I would recommend looking for a used calculator on Ebay from the list above. If you are not acquainted with Ebay, I am somewhat addicted to the site, and have purchased an ample supply of TI-85s and TI-86s that I would be happy to sell.**

**The TI-85's will require a payment of \$20 and the TI-86's will require a payment of \$30.**