



Calera High School Calculator Policy As of August 2020

It is our desire that our students be given the best opportunity for success in mathematics. In conjunction with the new math standards established by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), the Calera High School Math Department is establishing a new calculator policy effective beginning the 2020-2021 school year.

The ALSDE has stated eight Student Mathematical Practices and says that “students should regularly engage in these processes and proficiencies at every level throughout their mathematical studies.” One of these practices is to “use appropriate tools strategically.” It is our intent that this new policy will enable us to help our students move away from relying on their calculator and move towards using their calculators more strategically. It is our hope that by making this change, student success in mathematics classes and science classes will improve. We also believe that there could be a positive impact on standardized test scores like the ACT, the AP Calculus AB exam, and the AP Chemistry exam, among others.

New calculator policy:

1. Students should expect that often there will be tests on which **no** calculator will be allowed. With that in mind, students should complete corresponding homework assignments without a calculator so that they are prepared for those tests.
2. When calculators are allowed on a test, the teacher will designate whether the student is allowed to use a 4-function, scientific, or graphing calculator (Graphing calculators are typically used in advanced math classes, but their use is not limited to those classes.)
3. The only scientific calculator that will be allowed on tests will be the TI-30XIIS or a similar, teacher-approved calculator. Scientific calculators with a “math print” or “natural textbook display” feature will no longer be allowed on tests. Prohibited calculators in this group include, but are not limited to, the TI-30XS MultiView or any Casio ES-Plus or MS series calculator.
4. A graphing calculator is required for AP Calculus. The recommended graphing calculator is the TI-84 Plus.

The TI-30XIIS is available at Wal-mart, Office Depot, Amazon.com, and many other retail outlets. When the time comes for purchasing school supplies, these businesses often put this calculator on sale. We wanted to make you aware of the new calculator policy now so that you have ample opportunity to make any necessary purchases before school begins in August.



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