

January 8, 2015

SUBJECT: AP CALCULUS READINESS PLAN FOR ACCELERATED PRE-CALCULUS STUDENTS

Pre-Calculus Students and Parents,

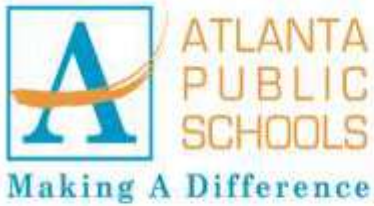
Ms. Vinson and I would like to share with you the following plan for ensuring that students who complete Accelerated Pre-Calculus this spring are prepared for success in an AP mathematics course next fall. We recognize that not all students will take AP Calculus, opting for AP Statistics instead. Our plan addresses both courses. Since December, we have met on multiple occasions to develop this plan, and we feel confident that Ms. Vinson can effectively cover the material that is needed in the time available this semester. Our plan is outlined below, but you are also invited to join us on Tuesday, January 20th, in the Media Center at 6 p.m. to discuss the plan in more detail.

First, we made strategic decisions to omit nonessential topics for AP Calculus AB or BC: complex numbers, probability, and statistics. The content of the probability and statistics unit is not needed as a prerequisite for either AP Calculus or AP Statistics. Complex numbers is a very isolated topic that can be picked up quickly by students as needed when they take higher level courses. An outline of this material, aligned to online resources will be provided to students by Ms. Vinson so that they can pursue it independently if desired. After careful consideration of what was covered in first semester and what remains in the curriculum, we are confident that the remaining topics can be covered effectively with the time remaining: trigonometry of general triangles, trigonometric identities, vectors, conic sections, and matrices.

All essential Advanced Algebra standards were completed in the fall, but some standards were omitted for time. A detailed list of what has and has not been covered will be shared at our meeting next Tuesday. In particular, the probability and statistics content from the curriculum has been omitted over the past three semesters. This material is not prerequisite to AP Calculus and is covered in detail in AP Statistics. Students planning to take the SAT2 subject test in mathematics should plan to take AP Statistics or cover this material on their own before taking the subject test.

Next, Ms. Vinson has given students a diagnostic assessment over right triangle and general triangle trigonometry to determine readiness for the first unit of the semester. She will use the results of the diagnostic remediate as needed while also moving forward with the curriculum. Later in the semester, vectors will provide another opportunity to further review and remediate right triangle trigonometry.

Finally, in May I will provide students with an AP Calculus Prerequisites summer assignment, and Mr. Rives will provide students with the AP Statistics Prerequisites summer assignment. I will be available periodically throughout the summer to assist students both online and face-to-face with these assignments. I have used these summer assignments for several years, and they have proven to be very effective for remediating gaps in student's knowledge.



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Timothy Guiney, Principal

We understand that not all students will want or need to take Calculus in high school or even in college. In fact all accelerated mathematics students are encouraged to consider taking AP Statistics in addition or alternative to AP Calculus. Rising seniors should seriously consider taking AP Statistics if they don't feel well prepared for AP Calculus. AP Statistics is an excellent and valuable college-level math course. Ms. Vinson and I will provide guidance to students during the prescheduling process to ensure that they sign up for the most appropriate math courses.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting next Tuesday in the Media Center at 6 p.m.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nichols
AP Calculus Teacher
Gifted Coordinator

Vickie Vinson
Pre-Calculus Teacher