2022 – 2023 Precalculus Syllabus **Mrs Startin**

Welcome to Precalculus! I hope that you enjoy the challenges and successes of the year, and find an appreciation for mathematics that comes from a deeper understanding of how various branches of mathematics fit together. I think we're going to have a great year!

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- You will not learn much unless you allow yourself to be wrong frequently and fight the temptation to get frustrated and to give up. Persist until you feel good about your level of understanding. This takes patience, resilience, and an openness to struggle, skills that will serve you well for the rest of your life.
- You will enjoy learning greatly if you approach it with an attitude of curiosity and discovery.
- No discipline embodies the notion of truth quite like mathematics does. So please be honest when you are in this course, both with me and with yourself. If you don't know something, just say so – that's why you are here.
- Support and encourage each other. Set up a weekly or biweekly study group with classmates to discuss homework.
- Feel free to use my room for studying/group discussions before school, during lunch, and during Office Hours.

MATERIALS

- Texts are brand new this year. Students are required to cover their texts and write their names on the inside of the front cover. Fines will be assessed for damaged texts. Text: "Precalculus," Blitzer, 7th Ed, 2022
- Three-ring binders with dividers and loose-leaf paper work well for organizing your work, but as long as you can take papers out, put them in, and keep it well-organized other options may be acceptable. Create one section for *Notes*, one for *Homework*, and one for *Handouts* (you may need to add other sections later). You will be submitting your notes and HW via the Google Classroom weekly, and you will use your homework during board work.
- Pencils (preferred) or blue/black pens.
- Red pens
- Calculators are provided for use in the classroom. It is optional but strongly recommended that you get a graphing calculator, if you can. I recommend a TI-84 or higher.
- *Optional:* Graph paper. Colored pens, highlighters.

NOTES

- Take notes as assigned daily, as well as during board work, group work, and/or lecture/discussion.
- Read each section as assigned in its entirety, paying attention to bold-faced terminology. Clearly title (with the section number and the name) each section of notes. Take notes to include unfamiliar vocabulary/notations/symbols, key ideas (blue boxes), worked examples, and any questions you'd like to ask in class, etc.

HOMEWORK

- Usually two to three assignments weekly, but they are lengthy (see schedule on Google Classroom).
- Clearly title (section, name) each HW assignment. Label each problem clearly; include brief directions for each set. Show workings for each problem in an organized, clear, and concise manner.
- Students will be randomly chosen daily to put their work on the board (with the support of their group). You will be allowed to take your homework, but not your text.
- Homework will be uploaded to Google Classroom weekly by students and checked for completion, but not included in the grade calculation.

ASSESSMENTS

Formative: Students will share selected homework solutions in groups at the board regularly. Additionally, they will be required to upload homework weekly to the Google Classroom (usually by the end of the day each Thursday) to provide a picture of student effort and progress. These scores will not count in the calculation of the students' overall grade.

Summative: Each quiz will include multiple learning targets (see weekly schedules). Each learning target will be assessed twice. Weekly quizzes over the learning targets (most Fridays – how well are you learning it?) will make up 50% of the grade each semester, each quiz counting equally. Mid-term and final exams (how well are you retaining it?) will make up 50% of the grade each semester. Students will self- and peer-assess ("mark") their quizzes; quiz grades will include a "marking" score and/or a "learning target" score and/or an average thereof. For pre-arranged absences, please make up quizzes ***PRIOR*** to your absence. For unexpected absences, students must make up quizzes **no later than the period the quizzes are marked** (if this is not possible, get in touch with me right away to make alternative arrangements).

Semester Grades: In first semester, quizzes will account for 50% of the grade; the mid-term and final exams will constitute the other 50% of the grade. In second semester, quizzes will be 40% of the grade, the mid-term and final exams will be 50% of the grade, and an end-of-year project will be 10% of the grade (seniors are excused from this component of the course). There are no "retakes." All students will take the same end-of-year exam (the exam taken by MATH 151 UM/Missoula College students).

DUAL CREDIT: Students who choose to take the class for dual credit with MATH 151 at UM/Missoula College will have their grade calculated using the average of the first semester, the second semester, and the final exam. Interested students must sign up for the *Spring* Semester at UM/Missoula College. Representatives will come in to discuss the details of this process and how to sign up in sometime in January, 2023.

Semester 2 End-of-Year Project

The details of this will be provided later.

Extra Credit/Retakes

There are no extra credit or retake opportunities in this course. However, I do add 1 percentage point onto **every** student's grade at the end of the semester entered into the grade book as "potential teacher error."

GRADING SCALE

A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 0 – 59%

You will need to earn a minimum 70% in this course to move on to Calculus next year. I round final grades.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Google Classroom Codes:
Period 3: **zeuzw6k**
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