HONORS PRECALCULUS

Instructors
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Textbook
Precalculus with Limits by Larson, Hostetler and Edwards

Course Overview
Precalculus is a rigorous study of functions and their properties in order to equip students with the tools they will need to successfully study calculus. Precalculus honors takes this one step further by preparing students to take Advanced Placement Calculus in their senior year. The topics of study will be as follows:

- Elementary Function Analysis
- Polynomial Functions
- Trigonometric Functions
- Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
- Vector Algebra
- Analytical Geometry (including Conics and Polar Graphs)
- Series and Sequence
- Limits and Introductory Differential Calculus

In addition to these topics, there will be two over-riding themes that will be present in the class. The first is the extensive use of the graphing calculator (we will use the TI-83 or TI-84) and the second is modeling real-world problems. Both are necessary ingredients in providing students with the theoretical and practical foundations of higher level mathematics.

Classroom Rules
Due to the intensity and breadth of the material that will be covered, full and active participation will be expected on a daily basis. Textbooks may be left at home so students can do homework and assigned readings. Notebooks, pens, graphing calculators and other tools are expected to be in class daily.

Grading and Homework
Homework is an integral part of learning mathematics, and without daily practice of the work, students will never succeed. However, since there is a great time constraint, it will only be checked occasionally, and not counted as part of the student's average. Student averages will be calculated by test scores, which will be given roughly every two weeks.

Extra Help
After school help is available in the Old Gym. Our course website has interactive forums where students can post questions they may have.