Precalculus: Course Policies

Teacher:
Mr. Weis (jweis@dublinschool.org)
Home phone: 499-3667 before 9:30 P.M.
When not in class I am often in the classroom anyway, if you would like help. Other options can be arranged.

Why take Precalculus:
This course is designed to develop your reasoning powers. Although the course offers little in the way of new material, strictly speaking, it should amplify your ability to apply methods from Algebra II/Trigonometry, preparing you for higher level math courses, as well as assisting you in applying the math that you already know in a variety of settings.

Materials:
‘Mathematics 3’, a series of problem sets made available by Phillips Exeter Academy
It emphasizes trigonometric and logarithmic/exponential problems; similar to what is found in a Precalculus text.
A TI 82-3-4 series calculator with its manual

How We Will Learn Math:
On most days, we will work in groups of 3-4 to complete problems that have been begun as homework. By sharing ideas, we should be able to substantially complete the homework. The teacher will assist in this process, in some cases leading problems on the board or presenting some material through lectures.

Grading:
Your Grade will be determined by five components as follows:

20%: Participation
Your ability to work with your group is at the core of this course. The manner in which this grade is arrived at will be discussed explicitly in a separate handout. Essentially your goal should be to engage well with the group, whether you do that by asking questions and meaningfully expressing your difficulties, or by leading your group in finding solutions or helping others.

30%: Unit tests
There will be a test at the end of each unit (roughly one after every eight problem sets). Each term will include about three tests. Test grading policies are discussed in another handout.

20%: Final exam
The final exam will be formatted in manner similar to the unit tests and will cover the entire trimester. Material from previous trimesters will not be tested explicitly, though it may be necessary as a prerequisite to new material.
30%: Notebook/Homework and quizzes
Your homework, in the form of your most recent notebook pages will be checked every night. You should do your homework in one color and your in-class work in another. That is, you should begin all problems as homework, for example with a sketch and some preliminary work. Problems can be finalized in class, as you discuss ideas with your classmates. This is not to say that you should not completely solve problems for homework if you can. There may be occasional quizzes, weighted equally with homework. Grading is discussed on a separate sheet.

Other:
Absences, lateness (coming to class out of dress code will be counted as a late), plagiarism, etc. will be dealt with as described in the handbook.