

Mathematics 11: Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry

Course Syllabus

2009-2010

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Please use email rather than calling. We can arrange by email a time to meet in person or talk on the telephone.

❖ Course Description

We consider exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Trigonometry includes the trigonometric form of a complex number and De Moivre's theorem. We study finite sequences and series. Further topics from algebra and geometry include conics, vectors of two and three dimensions, matrices and linear algebra, combinatorics and probability, and some statistics. Throughout the year, the ability and inclination to visualize or sketch the graph of a function is encouraged. We stress the importance of definitions and statements of mathematical results and their proofs. Students write direct and indirect proofs and proofs using mathematical induction. We prove the binomial theorem. This course along with 12th grade mathematics prepares students to take the IB mathematics SL exam and the IB mathematics HL exam.

❖ Textbooks

Algebra and Geometry, Japanese grade 11. Kunihiko Kodaira, editor.
Basic Analysis, Japanese grade 11. Kunihiko Kodaira, editor.

❖ Mastery Grade

Your trimester mastery grade is determined by full period exams, brief quizzes, and graded assignments. Homework is *not* figured into the mastery grade. Your scores on quizzes and any graded assignments will make up 20% of your trimester grade. Exams will make up 80%. The category of exams includes IB mandated internal assessments and IB mandated projects as appropriate depending on which IB exam you will take in 2010.

❖ Quizzes and Exams

You can expect

- a quiz nearly every week,
- an exam at the end of a topic or at the end of a group of related topics.

A quiz may be given at any time without prior announcement. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Exams will be announced well in advance and will generally require a full class period to complete. If you are absent for a quiz or an exam, *you* are expected to arrange to make it up.

❖ Effort

Good effort is shown when

- you do all homework carefully and thoughtfully, even if you do not get the correct answer;
- you ask specific questions rather than saying, “I don’t get it”;
- you are eager to learn at the very start of class, as evidenced by being quietly seated at an uncluttered desk, and equipped with pencil, eraser, notebook, and homework;
- you thoughtfully, respectfully, and politely contribute to class discussions;
- you ask questions to better understand a topic or to explore it;
- you start without delay on in-class work and stick to it; and
- you take notes during class and keep an organized notebook.

❖ Notebooks

An organized three-ring binder is required. In class, we will discuss how best to organize it.

❖ Class Notes

In mathematics class, every important point is made *both* audibly in spoken words *and* visually in words, symbols, and drawings that go on the board. When you take notes on a solution, derivation, or proof, you do the mathematics along with your teacher. It is like climbing a mountain step by step with an experienced guide, rather than merely hearing or seeing some directions. Taking notes raises your thinking to a higher level, because you interpret, judge, evaluate, and organize what you are seeing and hearing in class while it is happening.

❖ Homework

Doing assignments on time is the most important action you can take to succeed in mathematics.

In mathematics, your learning depends on your thoughtfully working the assigned problems and staying caught up. This is the best way to prepare for exams and to understand new material as it is presented in class. **Expect to spend about 4 hours per week outside of class working on mathematics.**

In sports, music, and theater you play or perform like you practice. Sloppy practice, sloppy performance. Just as you would insist on doing your personal best when practicing a sport at which you desire to excel, so too you should insist on your best when you practice mathematics.

❖ Calculators

An IB approved graphing calculator is required. Models recommended for the IB exams are TI 84 Plus and Casio FX-9860G. My experience is that the Casio quicker and more intuitive to use than the TI. If you have a graphing calculator that is neither of these, ask a mathematics teacher who will have the complete list of calculators allowed for use on the IB exam. The only makes allowed are TI and Casio.

❖ Web resource

I will maintain a simple web site at <http://math.mnrt.net/> . I hope that parents and students will make use of this. If you are absent, you can get the day's assignment and any handouts from class at this site. I usually update it by about 5:30 p.m.

Here you will find

- the current assignment and all past assignments,
- copies of everything handed out in class including problem sets, and solutions to selected problems,
- my notes when the day's topic was especially complex,
- links to sites of mathematical interest.

This is not intended as a substitute for keeping an assignment notebook, which you are required to do. If you are absent from class, check here for the day's assignment and any handouts given during class. Parents will find the definitive answer to the question: "Do you have any mathematics homework?"

Please follow the link for *Standards for Success*. These excellent standards will help you to understand how and why what we are doing in class is preparing you for future success.

❖ Help

Please seek my help outside of class. I teach because I love to do mathematics with you. The student who makes the extra effort to get help when needed makes a very good impression on the teacher. Do not expect the impossible, though. If you have not kept up with assignments, meeting with me for an hour as the exam date approaches is not going to do you much good. If that was all it would take for you to do well, I would not be giving all these assignments in the first place.

❖ **Knowing and doing mathematics**

Mathematics is *not* a grab bag of facts, procedures, techniques, and tricks. Knowing mathematics means using a few basic ideas with skill, insight, and understanding. It means you can often solve a problem seemingly *unlike* any you have already done or seen done.

You improve in mathematics through thoughtful and purposeful practice and discussion. Watching someone else do mathematics and feeling like you get it is no guarantee that *you* can do it on your own. Jump in! Question, discuss, argue, and practice!

❖ **Parents**

Thank you for reviewing this with your student. Throughout the school year, please contact me when you have questions, comments, or concerns. I check e-mail whenever I return to my desk. E-mail will catch my attention the quickest, then we can arrange to talk by phone or meet in person. I try to check phone messages at the end of the day.

❖ **Parent signature**

Please review this with your parents and ask a parent to sign it below. I will not collect this, but I will check in class for a parent's signature.

Parent signature _____