

Welcome back for more calculus in the 2nd Year AP Calculus (BC level) 2008 - 2009 the journey continues...

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Open House is Wednesday, August 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

I am very pleased to be your teacher for another year for the 2nd year

Calculus (the BC level course). This is the 14th time I have taught this 2nd year course but the first eleven were at Bloomington South. I had a wonderful time as your calculus teacher last year. It was exciting for me to get the AP Calc Exam results recently to see how the group you were part of did better than the classes before at North. Reaching this level is a very significant accomplishment and I am impressed by each of you for reaching this level of mathematics.

Students doing well on this year's AP BC level exam will be able to claim college credit for *two* semesters of college calculus courses. At IU that would be M211 and M212. In college, you will have the option of continuing to the next calculus course, taking a mathematics course in a different area such as differential equations or linear algebra (n-dimensional vector space), taking the same level of calculus over again, or possibly not taking any mathematics at all.

Brief Bio update of Mr. Mongold: (This is a mix of what you read last year along with some updates.)

Born in Bloomington in 1950, I attended Rogers Elem, Binford J.H., and University HS. I was a mathematics major at IU in the honors mathematics program, graduating in 1972 while earning in Phi Beta Kappa honors in the College of Arts and Sciences. I loved and still love math - both its beauty and its logic. With a teaching license in hand in 1975, I began teaching in Bloomington schools (Dyer / Tri-North Middle School for 11 years, South for 20 years, and North for 2 and counting). My two sons, Jonathan and Paul, graduated from North in 2000 and 2003. Jonathan just started medical school. Paul, close to finishing a computer engineering degree, is reconsidering goals and is considering new paths. My wife, Linda, teaches 2nd grade at Rogers Elementary.

We have always loved bicycling (becoming more serious after our sons were in college) and rode across America in 2005. We've bicycled in Alaska, Hawaii, and Colorado in the last two years. I'm hoping to ride to school this year with some regularity and I have fenders, a saddle bag to carry stuff, and a light for the morning darkness when it comes. I've ridden three days in a row before you've started classes. (Students: ask me if I rode today - your first day back.)

My students will still occasionally be subjected to listening to me play guitar while singing math / calculus parodies of popular songs. I do need to come up with some new songs this year.

It is normal and natural to be "stuck." Think about this in the context of last year's calculus class.

This is true for the professional mathematician and it is true for the math student in a challenging course. We will all be stuck at various times this year. Students seldom see their math teachers "stuck" and students have done many things over the years in math where speed was important. This conspires to get many students to feel that if they become stuck at this level then they are no good at it. Nothing could be further from the truth. You're just getting to the "good stuff." Just stopping in quick frustration or becoming panic stricken are not helpful responses but they are very common. Calmly thinking, looking at previous problems, reading the textbook, sharing progress made so far, and asking for help, will bring progress. I want all of you to feel that you can ask questions without fear of a smart remark from me or a classmate. Get the help you need as we go along. Math is not a very good spectator sport. ***Be engaged in the class! Be part of the game of "math!"***

Students should continue to submit homework that is "reader-friendly." I want students to effectively communicate their mathematics on paper. This is a difficult task for some. Ask yourself if you need to improve in this regard. I would like everyone in the class to communicate their mathematics well this year.

- Include first and last name, date, period, name of class,

- Include page number(s) and problem numbers in an organized heading.
- Copy the problem in most circumstances.
- Answers alone are not acceptable.
- Show the reasoning: show your work step by step and use phrases and sentences to clarify.
- Writing should be neat and legible.
- Use white space on your paper effectively to make papers easy to read. It should not look crowded.
- Graphs, sketches, and drawings should be neat and labeled correctly - use a ruler for straight lines.

Grades - I will still use webgrades: www.mccsc.edu/~gmongold

Students will be expected to share the necessary password with their parents. Parents can call me to get the password if the student "forgets." A student's current grade is always determined by all homework and quizzes (weighted 1/4) and tests (weighted 3/4) accumulated up to that point in the grading period. At any point in time a student's grade will be determined by taking 3/4 of their test average up to that time and 1/4 of their homework average up to that time. The student's semester grade is found by weighting the cumulative grade up to that point by 3/4 and weighting the semester final exam by 1/4.

A Test Analysis and Reflection will still be required this year. Ask yourself if you analyzed your mistakes well enough last year. Think about your AP exam score from May while you consider this. Students who routinely analyze their mistakes as well will be more successful learners.

Attendance, Make-up Work, Homework Corrections, & Tardies: If you have an excused absence for "x" days then the you have "x " days to turn the make-up work in to me. It is up to you to find out what work was missed and turn it in on time. If you try but get a score on a homework paper less than an 85%, you may rework the missed problems, staple it to the top of the original when it is returned to them the next day, and give it all back to me. The score will be raised to an 85 if the rework is satisfactory. You should study, think, and get any necessary help as we go; not at the last minute. Calculus is very good at punishing students who get behind and then try to catch up. I expect students to be in their seats ready to work when the bell rings. I always try to have the kind of class that you will want to attend and you will hate to miss so hopefully missing school will not be an issue for any of us.

Late Papers Late papers will be penalized. Scores of papers that are one day late will be reduced by 25% and an additional 10% will be deducted for each additional day late.

Calculators: They are still required and your calculator from last year will be fine unless you just want to have the latest and greatest and the TI-84 or TI-89 Titanium edition will continue to be the most popular. I should mention that we will still have many no-calculator-allowed tests and quizzes because there are still many things we must know how to do by hand and many things to memorize. If your family qualifies for reduced price or free lunch, the school can help provide the calculator but you will need to tell me. The school does not share that information with teachers but most families think that teachers know.

What if you're sick the class before or the day of the test? Expect to take the test when you come back unless you call me and talk to me before you come to school and we agree on another arrangement. You will remember from last year that I always give you a lot of advance notice for tests and that we almost always review a great deal a few days before the test and start other topics not on the upcoming test so missing the day before or the day of is not a particular burden for you.

Classroom Behavior This group of students certainly knows how to behave in a classroom but I will give my guidelines here anyway so we all officially know what I expect. I do expect you to behave in a way that allows me to teach and allows you and others around you to be attentive to the daily lessons and to work diligently during any in-class work time. I do want you to devote this class time to calculus. The school asks that students not bring food and drink to class (individual teachers having permission to allow water). I want you to stay in your seats at the end of class and not get up to stand by the door waiting for the bell. I will usually call home at first if you do not follow these reasonable requests but at times I may refer a student to the office.

