Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

I would like to take a moment to congratulate you for making it to one of the highest levels of math classes that we offer at Mountain View High School! Calculus is a college-level course and as such, can be very challenging to some students. Although it can be difficult, if you are contemplating a field of study which requires it, taking calculus in high school is very wise for several reasons. Firstly, the scope of this course is about the same as a quarter of college calculus, but we will be going at a slower pace and will cover the same material in one year. Secondly, many adjustments must be made in the transition from high school to college. Trying to take calculus for the first time in college is disadvantageous as it requires a high level of concentration and study – something that is often difficult for college freshmen because they are adapting to the college environment. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Test.

**AP Incentive:** If you pass the AP Test with a grade of three or better, your class grade will go up one grade, both semesters. If you score a five on the test, you automatically receive an “A” in the class, both semesters. However, you must have at least a 70% in the class and all assignments turned in to qualify for the AP incentive. For seniors, at the end of first semester you will be given an official AP test, adjusted appropriately to cover whatever content has been covered to that point. Your grade will be raised (as per the criteria above) for first semester based on the results of this test. As well, the AP Test will be your final for second semester. If you choose not to take the test, you will be given an in-class final of equal rigor that counts toward your grade @ 30% of the class grade.

The grading scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90%-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87%-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77%-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%-69%</td>
<td>Pass/No Credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASS/NO CREDIT OPTION**

This option is available only to those students that have:

1. no unexcused absences;
2. turned in at least 95% of all of the semester assignments on time (see the assignment section below);
3. have a class grade of 60% or higher.

If a student is eligible, a note stating they want this option and that is signed by their parent/guardian must be turned in to Ms. Griffin before their last day of the semester. Those students who are concerned with their G.P.A. will be relieved to know that getting a grade of Pass will NOT affect their Grade.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments given are due the next school day. Students should expect to spend approximately one hour outside of class per day to complete assignments. Prior to arriving in class on the next school day, each student should check their answers. All assignments are worth 5 points. To earn full credit, all problems must be attempted with all work shown; to earn 3 points, most problems are attempted with all work shown. No points will be given if work is not shown. At the beginning of each semester, each student will be awarded 3 late pass coupons. These coupons may be used to turn in a late assignment (The late assignment must be turned in before the test on that chapter.) or the coupons may be redeemed at the end of semester for homework points (3 points for each coupon).

Tests/Quizzes: 75% of the class grade
Homework: 20% of the class grade
Participation: 5% of the class grade
EXTRA HELP

Students may find that they may require more help with calculus outside of class. I am available to help students before and after school. Our textbook offers online tutoring for odd problems. Check Ms. Griffin’s website for more details. Some students may need to hire a calculus tutor to help them achieve success at the level they desire. Students may find a calculus tutor through the Evergreen Tutoring Center by calling 604-4082 or contacting Ms. Griffin for a list of Mountain View High School student tutors.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Griffin
604-6100 ext. 2483
mechelle.griffin@evergreenps.org

Parents, please complete and sign the portion below the dotted line. Your student is required to return this to me.

New District AP Policies Approved by the District and School Board

1. AP grades will be factored in the class rank on a 5 point scale.
2. The AP incentive is that students taking the AP exam will receive a higher grade based on the following MVHS practice:

   If a student has all assignments turned in for the entire semester, both semesters, and they have a 70% (C) or higher grade, and they pass the College Board AP Test in May with a 3 or a 4, their grade will be raised one letter grade BOTH semesters (or for whichever semester they qualify if they do not qualify both semesters). If they pass the test with a 5, their grade will be raised two letter grades both semesters. In both cases the grade would not exceed an A. If a student takes the AP test, it will count in their AP class as having taken the second semester final, and they will be excused from taking a second semester final exam in their AP class. If a student chooses not to take the AP test, they will be given a final test second semester of equal rigor to the College Board exam that counts toward their class grade at 30% of the class grade.

Rationale:

Class rank is one factor considered in admission to selective colleges. Our state prohibits grading AP students on a 5 point scale but we can factor in a five point scale for the class rank.

Many students resist taking AP classes for fear it will jeopardize their GPA. Increasing the student’s grade based on their AP Exam performance is fair and reasonable. It will also encourage more students to take the AP Exam thus providing important information to the teacher and program.

AP Class: Calculus AB
Year: 2017-2018

Student Name (Please Print): ___________________________ Period: ______
Parent/Guardian (Please Print): ___________________________ Phone: _____________
Work Phone: __________________ email: __________________
I have read and understood the contents of the Calculus Parent Letter

Parent signature ___________________________ Date ______________