

Dear Parents of Wildcats,

This year promises to be an exciting one for our students, their parents, and teachers alike. The high school Mathematics department is energized by the prospect of working with your children to help them succeed this year and provide them with a solid foundation for their future education here at OJR and beyond.

During this school year, the Mathematics department is increasing its use of technology to help students achieve at a higher level and exceed proficiency standards. Technology aids students in discovering new ways to think about problems and in analyzing data to come up with their own answers. These valuable educational tools give students a way to explore ideas and visualize concepts in greater depth than would otherwise be possible. Used appropriately, technology can help lead students to better comprehension of mathematical concepts and their real world applications.

Please be assured that we also recognize and strongly emphasize that using technology in the classroom is not a substitute for mastery of basic skills. Indeed, all district teachers of mathematics stress building every student’s fundamental skills in mathematics.

This year we will be incorporating the use of the TI-30, TI-83 Plus, TI-84 Plus, and the TI-89 calculators in our math classes. Although we can provide some for use in the classroom, we encourage each student to have his or her own personal calculator for use at home and on standardized tests, as well as to increase proficiency and comfort level with the tool. Your child’s teacher will provide specific details as to which calculator is best suited to meet the academic needs of his or her course.

In addition, this calculator will be used throughout your child’s time here at the high school. Students continuing onto college or trade schools will also find this tool extremely helpful. Please consider this a long term investment in your child’s educational progress.

It is important to note that the graphing calculators listed above are permitted for use on the SAT and Advanced Placement exams. Please note that the TI-89 is not permitted for use on the PSSA. Although many students may already have a scientific calculator, owning a graphing calculator will assist your child in his or her mathematical quest. Please feel free to contact your child’s math teacher or myself with any questions or concerns pertaining to this initiative.

Respectfully,

High School Mathematics Department