

## PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

HELLO! My name is Mrs. VanBuskirk. Your child is in my *Honors Trigonometry/Honors Pre-Calculus* class at EHS. I have been teaching at EHS since 1996, and I am the parent of two teenagers...so, I get it...this time of the year can be both exciting and stressful for parent and student! I plan on sharing lots of info with your child in our first few days together via "digital handouts," and discussion, so this document serves as a quick overview for parents. If for any reason during the school year you feel that you need to contact me with a question or concern about your child, please feel free to e-mail (most efficient) me at [avanbuskirk@ecusd7.org](mailto:avanbuskirk@ecusd7.org), or call me at EHS (656-7100-Math Office ext. 20311).

## SUPPLIES YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR MATH CLASS

See the digital document titled "PROCEDURES & RULES HANDOUT"

## SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS

In regards to learning new mathematical skills, research in education has shown that the best way to master math is through practice. Honors Trigonometry/Honors Pre-Calculus is a very demanding and an extremely challenging course; therefore, your child should plan to spend approximately 30-45 minutes each day on math work. I also know that at the "honors" level, the redundant "skill and drill" homework is not necessary for all students. Therefore, I give students a "suggested" assignment each day new material is covered. Those topics will eventually be assessed via an online (or quick in-class) assessment. This will be a new "homework" idea for students-preparing them for "college level" learning and assessment. Your child and I will be discussing this idea in class throughout the first few weeks of school. PLEASE ask your child how they are doing with this new "homework" concept. Generally, a test or quiz is given once a week. You can check my website (in first unit) and Schoology for class syllabi, daily suggested assignments, due dates, test/quiz dates, etc. Honors Trig/PreCalc is not an easy class...your child will be challenged, but I find that my students are up for the challenge, and when they put the time in, the benefits they reap are priceless!

## PROJECTS/JOURNALS

Students will be required to complete "projects" during the semester, along with writing in journal form (typically submitted online). Students will receive more information on projects & journals further into each semester.

## ABSENCES

It has been brought to your child's attention that when he/she is absent from math class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what assignments were missed and to make up those assignments promptly. Students are expected to be in class every day; unless an illness or family emergency/situation keeps them home. Please read over the Student Handbook with your child for further information on make-up work and excused/unexcused absences. I cannot stress enough how much material we cover in once class period; make-up work should be followed up on immediately.

## GRADES

If you would like to know how your child is doing in our class, research Tiger View on-line (contact me if you have questions on what you see on Tiger View). I would expect that all students have access to their Tiger View account. I want you and your child to be aware of the grade at all times.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT/WEBSITE/ON-LINE COMPONENTS OF CLASS

When a child enters or continues high school, parents often wonder how much academic freedom they should allow their child. The degree of freedom will be different for every child. However, research continues to show that parental involvement in a child's education (primary through secondary) will encourage academic success. I have found that the following website contains good information concerning parental involvement and interesting "how to start the school year/semester off right" ideas for parent and student: <http://www.pta.org/parentsguides>

I would hope students and parents will navigate my website and Schoology when they are looking for information concerning our class. My website will be an, easy "start of year" resource; then after the first unit, Schoology will house current course work information. Students will also have digital access to their textbook (imbedded with TONS of resources) and will be asked to complete some assessments on-line. Again, I will help students navigate this very soon. You can link to my website from the EHS homepage or directly here: <http://avanbuskirk2.wixsite.com/classic-layout>

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Your child is expected to review the following digital documents via my website or in Schoology by **Sunday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>**: "Classroom Rules & Procedures", "Class Expectations," and "Math Work Organization." Please read over and discuss these with your child. I will hold student and parent responsible for the information contained on all "beginning of the semester" documents. Our classroom runs very efficiently and effectively when all procedures and rules are followed.

### **MRS. VB's #1 RULE**

BE NICE! I always brag to other teachers and faculty that I have the nicest parents & students at EHS. I expect this from my students/parents and demand it for myself. A simple "please," "thank you," smile, helping hand, etc., can go a long way!

I am looking forward to a great "year of learning" with your child! ☺