Pre-Calculus 12
Course Outline

Instructor
Mr. Barss

Topics to be Covered
Unit I  Transformations
Unit II  Polynomials
Unit III Radical and Rational Functions
Unit IV Logarithms & Exponents
Unit V  Trigonometric Functions
Unit VI  Trigonometric Identities
Unit VII Combinatorics

Keys to Success in Math
- Attend every day.
- Listen to the teacher…don’t just mindlessly copy down the notes.
- Understand the concept, not just how to get the answer right.
- Practice during class on the questions that are used as examples.
- Homework…complete every question of every assignment. They’re not all the same.
- Seek Extra Help when something doesn’t make sense or you can’t match the answers.

Homework
Practice work will be assigned daily and answers provided. As much class time as is possible will be given to allow students to get a start on the work. The purpose of these questions is to allow the students to practice the day’s concepts and confirm that they understand the material and are able to apply it in a variety of scenarios. Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning, complete practice work daily, and see me for extra help when they experience difficulty. Very few (if any) are able to succeed at Math 12 without attending every day and establishing a disciplined and regular routine of completing homework and clarifying issues of concern or difficulty.

Communication
I post student grades in the classroom and also on-line (by student number – no names are attached) on my webpage within the Spectrum website so that students and parents can check progress at any time. From the main Spectrum web page under “Staff Info” click on “Staff Directory”. Under “Teaching Staff” find my name (Tim Barss) and click on the “website” link by it. On this page my courses will be listed including links to current marks.

Mark Breakdown
Quizzes 20%
Chapter Tests 60%
Final Exam 20%
Extra Help
I will begin each day by taking questions from the homework. Make use of this time – this is where some of the best learning happens. If you feel you need some extra one-on-one help, by far your best opportunity is in class when I have given some time to work on practice assignments. Students are encouraged to come up and work through some questions with me to clear up their difficulties. Other than this, I am usually available for extra help before school, but due to other commitments within the school I am often occupied during lunch or after school. Since I teach in several different areas of the school it is best to check with me in advance about where and when to meet. In addition, there is free math tutoring offered through Mr. Hunter in room 317. See Mr. Hunter for more information on when this runs. There are also peer tutors available during collaboration time on Thursdays.

Supplies
Notebook, paper, pencil, eraser, scientific calculator, ruler.

Missed Days
If you are forced to miss a class, it is your responsibility to ensure you are caught up. First get the notes you missed from another student and try the practice assignment. Usually the notes will include examples of most of the types of questions in the assignment. See me for extra help on the questions that you struggle with. I will not quiz a concept the day after we learn it. This is to ensure any students that missed that class have the opportunity to catch up. The next day, however, it is “fair game” so be sure you have taken the time to practice what you missed. If you are going to be missing a number of days in succession be sure to talk to me in advance about what you will be missing.

Missed Quizzes
I like to go through quizzes immediately in order to give fast, effective, and helpful feedback to students. Therefore missed quizzes can not be made up. If the student brings a note showing that the absence is excused then the quiz can be omitted. Otherwise, for an unexcused absence the quiz is a zero. At the end of each term you will be allowed to omit one quiz from your marks.

Missed Tests
If you miss a chapter test you are responsible to be prepared to make it up the next day you are in class. Do not ask for extra time because you’re not ready…you’ve already had extra time!

Rewrites
There are no test or quiz rewrites. However, there is a comprehensive review and/or practice test for each chapter with questions the same style and difficulty as the ones that will be on the test. Also note that if students demonstrate on the final exam that they have mastered a unit on which they had a poor test result I will it into consideration when determining the final course mark.