**Dear AP Calculus students and parents/guardians:**

I am excited for another great year of AP Calculus! In this course, you will begin to learn about one of the most important, useful and influential bodies of mathematics: the mathematics of change. Whether you become an engineer, teacher, mathematician, nurse, musician, doctor, forest ranger, accountant, scientist, preacher, lawyer, writer, or something else wonderfully spectacular, you will no doubt bump into these ideas, either directly or tangentially. More importantly, taking an AP class is an opportunity to study material in-depth with a heavy emphasis on analytical thinking. It requires a meta-level of knowing and understanding. Thus, it is not only knowing (i.e., memorizing definitions for a matching quiz) but understanding HOW we know what we know. Far more important than learning calculus is learning how to learn, which involves learning how to formulate excellent questions, learning how to make connections between concepts, and learning how to prepare for large-scale tests and exams. These are transferable skills you will use and continue to improve on for the rest of your life.

Naturally, there are a few things about this class that will be different from your previous math courses.

1. **It WILL be harder.**But you can do it, and I am here to help. You may find that you must work much harder to grasp the concepts and spend much more time on your assignments than ever before. For the first time in your academic career, you may struggle, and that is okay. To help you help yourself, I am available most mornings before school.
2. **It WILL require a good knowledge of all prerequisite mathematical concepts:** This class combines various concepts of all previous math courses that you have taken. Usually, I review some of these concepts with you at the beginning of the school year. However, this year, due to COVID 19, you will need to do it on your own. To help you review these concepts, I am asking that you complete Unit 1 notes and assignments outside of school, preferably before the start of the school year. All information to complete this unit can be found on my blog.
3. **It WILL last forever.** AP Calculus can help you earn college credit, depending on what university you plan to attend and what your intended major is. However, even if you do not need Calculus for your college program, many Calculus students find that their algebra skills are greatly strengthened and that this prepares them for whatever future math and science courses they may take.

 A few more nuts and bolts before classes begin in August.

1. Buy your **graphing calculator – TI Nspire CX CAS**. Make sure you buy this specific calculator! It must say CAS!! Also, please save the box top from the calculator and turn it in to me at the beginning of the school year! 30% of what we do will require a graphing calculator, so ensure that it is ready to go. Always keep it in your backpack. Always keep it charged!
2. Homework requirements for the class will average about one hour a night, and additional study time will be required before quizzes and tests. Because of the demand for depth of understanding, your success depends on your willingness to read, practice and study until you really grasp the material, even if this is more than what is assigned.
3. We will begin learning on the first day of school. Be ready, be prepared, and know all prerequisite information. If you have any questions or concerns before the start of school, please email me at meredith.bonanni@cobbk12.org

See you soon!

 Mrs. Bonanni