

To: Mathematics Students and Parents

From: Walla Walla High School Math Department

Re: Course Requirements for Algebra 1-2, Geometry 1-2, Honors Geometry 1-2, Algebra 3-4, and Honors Algebra 3-4

We hope you are enjoying your summer break! The Walla Walla High School Math Department would like to share two important state mandates regarding the math course you are enrolled in for the 2010-2011 school year.

End of Course (EOC) Assessments – This year, all students enrolled in Algebra 1-2 and Geometry 1-2 will be required to take a state assessment during the last three weeks of school. This assessment is a state graduation requirement. We have tentatively planned to give this assessment during the last week of school in order to maximize learning time and provide an opportunity to review a year of math subject matter.

State Learning Standards – The State of Washington has clearly defined course requirements in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. The new performance expectations require students to master more topics, in greater depth than previous standards in these courses. Our courses titled Algebra 1-2, Geometry 1-2, Honors Geometry 1-2, Algebra 3-4, and Honors Algebra 3-4 are now aligned to the new state standards.

With these two mandates from the state, we feel as a department the need to share four items necessary for student success in these courses:

- a) *Attendance* – Students need to attend class and participate every day. If a student misses class they should plan on either meeting with the teacher outside of class time, or attending math lab in order to master the material they missed.
- b) *Participation* – Students need to be active learners and take ownership for their learning on a daily basis. Math is something that you do, not something that is done to you. Complete all work on time in a manner which shows your thinking and meets the expectations of your teacher.
- c) *Math Lab* – Grading in WWHS math courses will be both skill and standards-based. Students who do not meet standard on an assessment may be assigned to math lab in order to meet standard. Math lab may also be assigned for students who do not keep up with daily assignments. If assigned, math lab is mandatory until work is completed/grade improves. Math lab attendance can also be voluntary. (Further details about math lab will be sent home at the start of the school year.)
- d) *Calculators* – we will **require each Algebra 1-2, Geometry, and Algebra 3-4 student to have a calculator** to use in class. We require the Texas Instruments TI-30 XS calculator or the Casio fx-115ES calculator. These two calculators have common features (multiple line display, fraction mathprint mode, tables), and are reasonably priced at \$15 - 18. If you are planning on taking four years of math and advanced science, you may want to purchase a Texas Instruments graphing calculator instead, the TI-84+.

Finally, in order to meet state standards, we are requiring students enrolled in the above courses to complete summer math work. This review work can be picked up at the WWHS main office beginning August 2nd and should be completed and brought to class the first day of school.