

Dear Parent:

Greetings! Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year here at Irmo High School. I am looking forward to a full year with your child in my AP Statistics class.

The use of a graphing calculator is **required** in this course. It is **strongly recommended** that each student have a **TI-83/4** (or the *TI-83/4 Plus*, or the *TI-83/4 Plus Silver Edition*, or the *TI-Nspire Handheld*) graphing calculator (approximate cost: \$90 - \$150, depending on the specific model). The statistics capabilities of the TI-83/4 enable the student to perform calculations with greater speed and accuracy than can be achieved by hand, or with other calculators. Students with other models (older TI models or different brands) may be at a *significant* disadvantage. The TI-83/4 is also the current recommended calculator for Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Calculus, and the IB Programme at Irmo High School.

The TI-89 is an acceptable calculator, but most students have found it *much* harder to use (especially in AP Statistics). Please note that the TI-89 is *not* permitted in the IB Diploma Programme.

Here are the College Board requirements for Calculator Use on the AP Statistics Exam:

“A calculator at least at the level of a scientific calculator is required.

A graphing calculator with statistics capabilities is expected. Nongraphing scientific calculators are permitted only if they have the statistics computational capabilities described in the *Course Description for AP Statistics*.

Excludes powerbooks and portable/handheld computers; electronic writing pads or pen-input/stylus-driven devices (e.g., Palm, PDAs, Casio ClassPad 300); pocket organizers; models with QWERTY (i.e., typewriter) keyboards (e.g., TI-92 Plus, Voyage 200); models with paper tapes; models that make noise or “talk”; models that require an electrical outlet; cell phone calculators.”

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through Irmo High School.

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