

Precalculus Honors DE
Summer Assignments and Contract

Dear Precalculus Honors DE Student:

Please read this introduction letter and sign the contract at the bottom of the last page. This must be signed and returned to Mrs. Luensmann via email or in person by Friday, May 22, 2026.

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of enrolling in Precalculus Honors DE for the 2026-2027 school year. This is a college-level course, which means a substantial amount of material must be covered in a relatively short period of time. As a result, students are expected to take greater responsibility for their learning and complete work outside of class on a consistent basis.

For those of you who had me last year, the format of the class will be the same. For students who had me last year, the overall structure of the course will be familiar. For those who did not, please note that the format of this class differs from a traditional lecture-based course. You will be expected to **watch** instructional video notes at home and complete guided notes that must be submitted through Canvas prior to class. When you arrive in class, we will review and reinforce the concepts from the notes, clarify questions, and apply the material through practice problems and discussion. This structure allows you to encounter each concept twice, first independently at home and again in class with support and clarification. Class time will primarily be used for guided practice, homework, and deeper problem solving, providing opportunities to work collaboratively and ask questions while I am available to help.

As you know, the past year focused heavily on Algebra 2 concepts. While Algebra 2 provides the algebraic foundation for higher mathematics, Precalculus builds directly on those skills and moves quickly into more advanced topics, including function analysis, trigonometry, and analytic reasoning. Because of the pace of this course, there will not be time to reteach prerequisite material in depth. For this reason, you are required to complete a summer assignment designed to strengthen the skills necessary for success in this course.

The goals of the summer assignment are to:

- Refresh essential Algebra 2 skills such as quadratics, polynomial equations, rational equations, radical equations, exponential and logarithmic equations, trigonometry
- Rebuild your algebra fluency and accuracy
- Develop the mathematical endurance needed for multi-step problem solving
- Allow you to begin the school year confident and prepared

This assignment is not intended to take over your summer. Instead, it is meant to provide a structured review so that when we begin in August, you are ready to engage with new material immediately.

Precalculus Honors DE is a rigorous and rewarding course. The stronger your algebraic foundation, the more confident and successful you will be throughout the course. Completing the summer work carefully and independently is the first step toward that success.

Please complete the assigned packet before returning to school in August. Do not wait until the last minute. A strong understanding of the material will be necessary in order to successfully complete the

Diagnostic Test, which will be administered on the second day of school. As this is a REQUIREMENT for this course, please be aware that students who do not complete this assignment as expected and on time will be asked to change their course to Precalculus Regular.

The major expectation for this class is that no late work will be accepted. Please note this right now: no late homework or classwork is accepted, period. Failure to do work on time or turn in work as expected, regardless of how much is completed in class, will result in low grades. As should be expected, this is a fast-paced, college level course. Homework will be assigned regularly. Mathematics requires consistent practice, and students who complete homework thoughtfully and consistently tend to perform significantly better on assessments. If you have sports, drama, clubs, work, or other non-academic activities, please remember that academics must remain your priority. Time management and communication are essential. If conflicts arise, you must communicate with me in advance.

Precalculus Honors DE will challenge you to work at a higher level of mathematical thinking. You will be responsible for keeping up with assignments, staying organized, and actively engaging with the material both inside and outside of class. Students who take thorough notes, practice regularly, and seek help when concepts become difficult generally perform very well. However, students who try to take shortcuts (i.e., skipping notes, avoiding practice problems, submitting work late or not at all, not asking questions, etc.), often struggle in this course. **Please note, two factors are imperative if you wish to succeed in the class: 1) You MUST do all required assignments, and 2) You must actively participate and engage in class.** Precalculus Honors DE serves as the primary preparation course for AP Calculus AB. Students who wish to continue into AP Calculus should aim to earn at least a B+ in this course, which is the qualifying grade for enrollment in AP Calculus AB. If you are not prepared to commit to the expectations of this course, you should strongly consider enrolling in Precalculus Regular instead.

Your effort and commitment from the beginning of the year will ultimately determine your success. Because mathematics is cumulative, success cannot be achieved by waiting until the end of the semester to improve performance. Consistent engagement with the material from the very start will set you up for success. Ultimately, the outcome of this course depends on the effort and commitment you bring to it.

If you have any questions about the expectations for this course, please contact me by email at jluensmann@ndpsaints.org. I will be checking email periodically throughout the summer and will respond as soon as possible.

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you in August. Precalculus Honors DE is a challenging and rewarding course, and I am excited to work with you as you prepare for the next level of mathematics.

Assignment Directions:

Complete all problems in the packet. Show all work for each problem and circle your final answers. Since you are entering Precalculus Honors DE, your work should demonstrate clear algebraic reasoning. Guess-and-check methods are not acceptable as a substitute for proper algebraic work. To receive full credit, all problems must be completed. You are responsible for understanding the algebraic concepts that are required for this course.

Once you have completed the assignment, keep the packet in a safe place. It will be collected on the first day of school (either submitted on Canvas, emailed, or turned in in person). This assignment is required in order to remain enrolled in Precalculus Honors DE.

Information to be prepared for the first day of school:

- Carefully read and sign the contract. Submit or email it to Mrs. Luensmann **no later than May 22, 2026**. Additional information and time for questions will be provided on the first day of school.
- Purchase the required supplies. These must be brought to class every day:
 - A designated math folder/binder to organize notes and homework.
 - Plenty of lined paper and graph paper
 - Red pen
 - Mechanical pencils
 - Calculator – TI-83 series or TI-84 series
 - Optional – Expo markers

Precalculus Honors DE

Summer Work and Understanding Contract

I understand the importance of completing the summer assignment in order to be successful in Precalculus Honors DE next year. I recognize that completing this work will strengthen my algebraic skills and help prepare me for the first day of class.

I commit to completing the assigned work thoughtfully and in a timely manner and to submitting the completed assignment on the first day of school. I understand that this work also sets the tone for the expectations and responsibilities of the course throughout the semester.

I also understand that a **Diagnostic Test will be given on the second day of school**, and that the material on this test will be directly related to the concepts reviewed in the summer assignment.

I acknowledge that waiting until the last minute to complete assignments will not benefit my learning and may result in poor performance. I understand that my success in this course depends on my effort, preparation, and responsibility, and I am committed to doing my best to achieve success.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date