Math Pathways at Joliet West

Honors Core (Envision) • Honors Pre-Calculus • AP Stats • AP Calc AB & BC

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Welcome, Students & Families

Tonight is about helping you understand your options and what will best support your student's success in high school and beyond.

Overview

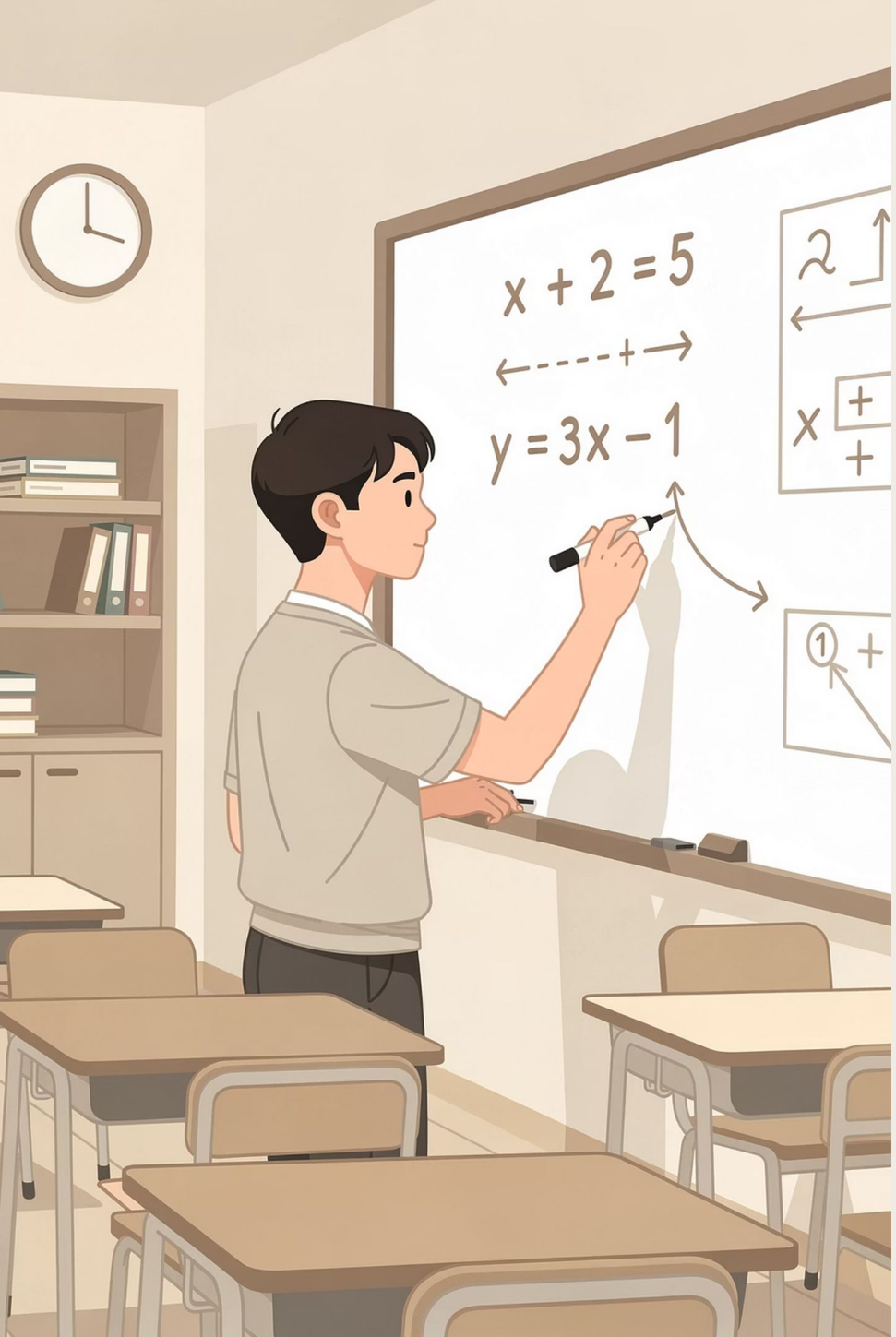
Explore available math pathways

Guidance

Understand what fits your student

Support

Learn how we help every learner



Our Goal

Everything we do aligns with Joliet Township High School District 204's mission — rigorous, equitable, and personalized education for every student.

Strong Mathematical Thinkers

We develop reasoning and problem-solving skills that go beyond formulas.

College & Career Ready

Every pathway prepares students for what comes after high school.

Support for All Learners

No student is left to navigate this journey alone.

What Makes Honors Different?

Honors courses move at a faster pace and expect more from students — not just correct answers, but critical thinking and clear reasoning.

Faster Pace

Less time on routine drill, more time on new concepts.

Deeper Thinking

Students explain their reasoning, not just their answers.

Greater Independence

Students take ownership of their learning process.

Core/Required Classes - The Envision Curriculum

HONORS COURSES: ALGEBRA 1 - GEOMETRY - ADVANCED ALGEBRA

Envision is a problem-based curriculum designed to help students understand *why* math works — not just how to execute procedures.

Problem-Based Learning

Concepts introduced through real challenges students work to solve

Real-World Applications

Math connected to everyday contexts students actually care about

Collaboration

Students learn alongside peers through structured discussion

Conceptual Understanding

Emphasis on the "why" behind every mathematical idea

Flexible Endpoints — No Single "Right" Path

Success looks different for different students. The goal is finding the best fit for your student's interests, goals, and strengths.

Honors Precalculus

A rigorous foundation for future study

AP Statistics

Data, decision-making, real-world projects

AP Calculus AB

First-semester college calculus

AP Calculus BC

Full two-semester college calculus

AP Program Overview

AP courses at Joliet West follow standards set by the **College Board** — the same organization that administers the SAT. These are college-level courses taught in a high school setting.

1 College-Level Rigor

Coursework mirrors introductory college classes

2 Earn College Credit

Strong AP exam scores may earn credit at most universities

3 Nationally Recognized

Colleges value AP courses on transcripts

AP Statistics

GREAT FOR: BUSINESS · HEALTH · PSYCHOLOGY · DATA SCIENCE

AP Statistics teaches students to collect, analyze, and interpret data — skills that are in demand across nearly every career field.

Data Analysis

Exploring patterns, distributions, and variability

Real-World Decision Making

Using statistical inference to draw meaningful conclusions

Activities & Investigations

Hands-on application of concepts throughout the year

AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC

Great for Science Classes
Engineering Courses
Higher Level Math Courses

Calculus is the mathematical study of continuous change, acting as the foundation for modeling dynamic systems in science and engineering. It focuses on two main, interrelated branches: differential calculus (analyzing instantaneous rates of change and slopes) and integral calculus (calculating accumulated quantities, such as areas under curves).

AP Calculus AB / BC

Similarities for both courses include:
Mathematical Practices:

1) Implementing Mathematical Practices
2) Connecting Representations
3) Justification
4) Communication and Notation

Differences for both courses include:

Typically AP Calculus AB covers the first semester of Calculus 1 on a college level (math 170 level)

AP Calculus BC covers the materials for AP Calculus AB (faster pace & more in-depth) and the materials covered in a semester of Calculus 2 on a college level (math 172 level)

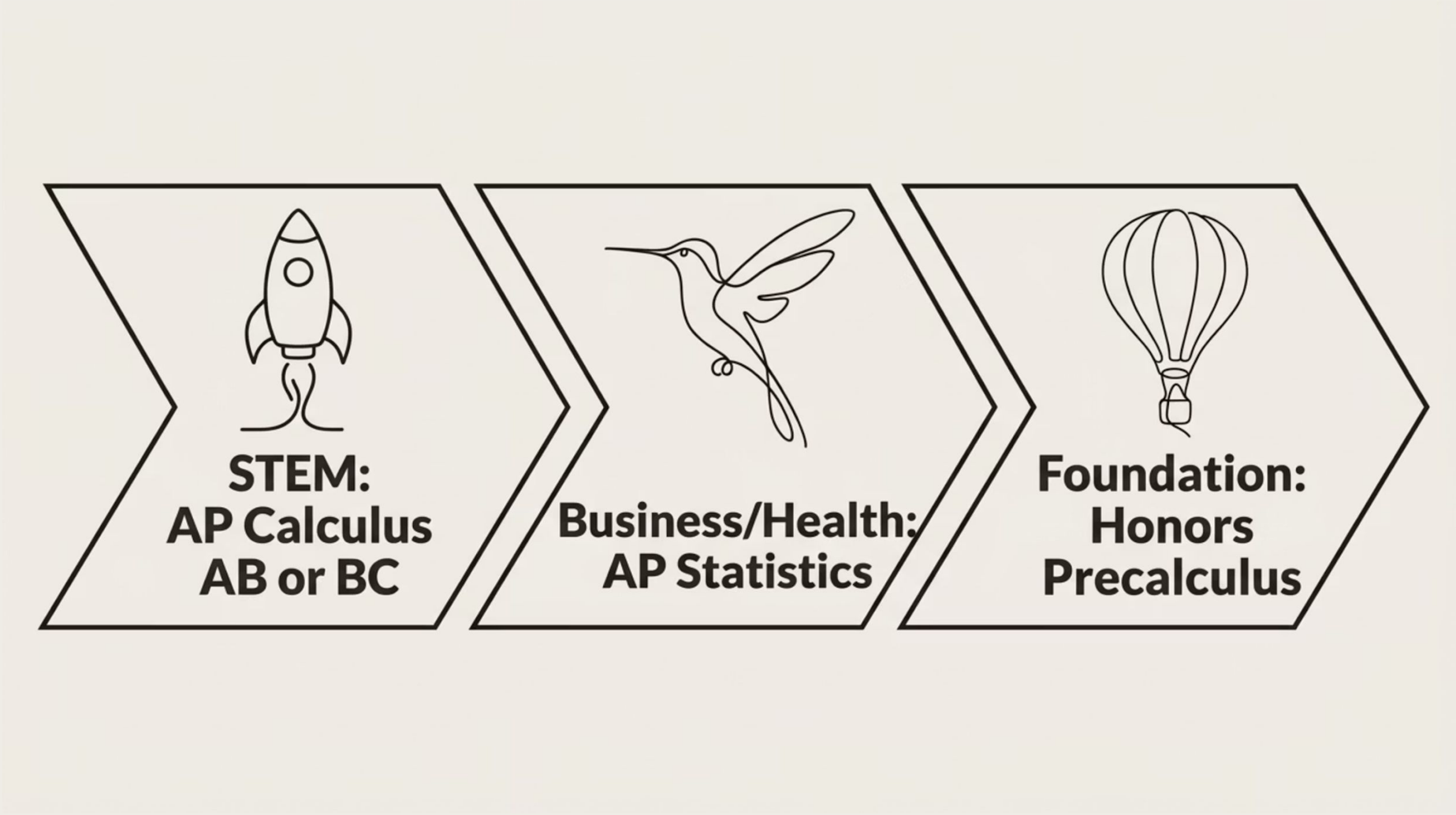
AP Calculus AB covers units 1 - 8

AP Calculus BC covers units 1 - 8 (more in-depth) and must complete units 9 and 10

AP Calculus-AB_BC_Course at a Glance Poster.pdf

Which Course Is Right for My Student?

Use your student's interests and future goals as your guide. There is no universally "best" course — only the best fit.



Not sure? Talk with your student's current math teacher — they know your student's strengths and readiness best.

What Students Can Expect

These courses are designed to challenge students. Struggle is a *normal and expected* part of the learning process — not a sign that something is wrong.

Homework Daily

Consistent practice is essential for retention

Group Work & Discussion

Learning through collaboration with peers

Regular Assessments

Quizzes, tests, and projects throughout the year

Productive Struggle

We support students as they work through hard problems

How Students Are Supported

No student is expected to figure it all out alone. Multiple layers of support are built into every course.

Structured Lessons & Notes

Clear, organized instruction every day

Teacher Support

Available before, during, and after class

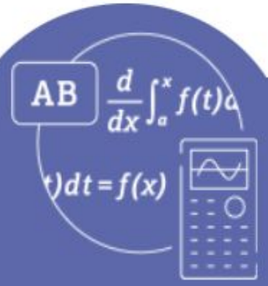
Savaas and/or AP Classroom Practice

Adaptive digital practice to reinforce skills

Tutoring Available

In-school and online options for extra help

Explore AP Classroom Resources



AP Calculus AB

Go to AP Classroom

Progress Checks →
Question Bank →

View Join Code for 1 Section +

Exam Day May 11, 2026

Go to Course & Exam pages →

AP Calculus BC

Go to AP Classroom

Progress Checks →
Question Bank →

View Join Code for 1 Section +

Exam Day May 11, 2026

Go to Course & Exam pages →

Additional Teacher Resources

AP and Pre-AP Community →
AP and Pre-AP Course Audit →
AP Credit Policy Search →
AP Exam Scores →
AP Professional Development Workshops →
AP Services Terms and Conditions →

Skills for Success

Research consistently shows that **effort and consistency matter more** than being "naturally good at math." These habits are what actually drive results.

Persistence

Push through difficult problems without giving up; struggle is part of the learning process

Asking Questions

Raise your hand in class, visit office hours, and use tutoring before you fall behind

Calculator Fluency

Learn to use your graphing calculator (TI-84, TI-Nspire) efficiently — it's a tool, not a crutch

Organization

Keep a dedicated math notebook, track deadlines, and review notes regularly

Consistent Effort

Complete homework daily and review material in small chunks rather than cramming before tests

Strong Attendance & Participation

Missing class in a fast-paced math course creates gaps that are hard to recover from.
Engage in class discussions, work with partners, and explain your thinking out loud

How Parents Can Help

Your involvement makes a real difference. You don't need to know calculus — you just need to show up and stay engaged.

Encourage Effort Over Grades

Praise the process, not just the outcome

Ask About Their Learning

"What did you work on today?" goes a long way

Monitor Progress

Check the grade portal and stay connected

Communicate with Teachers

Reach out early — we are partners in your student's success

The Benefits of Rigorous Math

Challenging yourself in high school math pays dividends — in college applications, in the classroom, and in your career.

4+

AP Courses Strengthen

College applications at selective universities

5

AP Exam Score

May earn college credit, saving time and tuition

2x

Better Prepared

For advanced coursework compared to peers who skipped rigorous math

Every student can succeed in math with the right support.

We are here to help your student find the right path, stay on it, and thrive.

Thank you for being here tonight.

Student Slide if they want to speak about their experiences.

Name	Current Math Class	Most important thing to know about Math Honors

Questions?

We welcome your questions. You can also reach out directly:

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Quick Reference: Math Electives at a Glance

JOLIET WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Course	Best For	College Equivalent	Key Skills
Honors Precalculus	Students building a strong foundation	College Trigonometry	Functions, trigonometry, reasoning
AP Statistics	Business, health, social sciences	Intro to Statistics	Data analysis, probability, inference
AP Calculus AB	STEM-focused students	Calculus I (1 semester)	Limits, derivatives, integrals
AP Calculus BC	Highly motivated math students	Calculus I & II (2 semesters)	All AB topics + series, advanced integration

Not sure which course fits? Connect with your student's current teacher — they know your student best.