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To: Upper School Students and Parents

From: Mathdepartmentchair@seattleacademy.org

RE: Calculator requirements for all Upper School students

Calculator usage is an integral part of the Upper School SAAS math experience. Students are required to purchase and bring a calculator to their math class. As with the school-issued laptop, teachers expect students to come to class prepared to learn, with a fully charged calculator on a daily basis. Here is some information about what calculator is required and our rationale for this:

Students in Math Lab, Algebra 1, or Geometry: Either the TI-30XIIS (scientific) or the TI-84* (graphing) calculator is acceptable.

For students in any other math class: TI-84* (Graphing) Calculator is required

*Note on various models of TI-84: There are several equivalent versions of the TI-84 available, as can be seen on the Texas Instruments website ([link](#)). The newest **TI-84 Evo** or the **TI-84 Plus CE** models are recommended if buying new. The older models, such as the TI-84 Plus, are acceptable for families that already own them, but are not recommended as a new purchase.

The Math Department has adopted the Texas Instruments TI-84 as the standard graphing calculator required of all students in Algebra 2 or beyond. Graphing calculators have become an integral part of math instruction in the secondary-school curriculum. By all students owning essentially the same model of calculator, group and cooperative instruction is easier, and projects and labs can be designed with greater specificity and depth. While there are other graphing calculators on the market with varied features, the TI-84 was selected for its advanced statistical and graphing features, its acceptance for use on standardized tests, and its ability to link with a laptop and other computers. The calculator can be purchased either online or at most office supply stores for approximately \$110.00. We recognize that a graphing calculator is a significant but important investment. Because of this, the math department commits to the TI-84 as the only calculator required for students at SAAS. Also, because of the investment, students should be reminded to record the calculator's serial number and label it with their name and phone number so it can be returned to them if it gets misplaced.