

POINT PLEASANT SCHOOLS

Jennifer Riback
Supervisor of Math and Science, K-12

2100 Panther Path
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
(732) 701-1900, Ext. 2299
Fax: (732) 892-1252
Email: jriback@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us

June 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Some parents have expressed interest in purchasing a graphing calculator for their high school child. The graphing calculator is a powerful tool fundamental to the successful completion of today's high school math and science courses. It helps students visualize and better understand many abstract topics. In most math and science classes, there are homework problems and classroom activities that require the use of a graphing calculator.

While we do have some school-purchased graphing calculators available for students to borrow (the TI-84 Plus model in "school bus" yellow), parents may certainly purchase their child his or her very own. A graphing calculator will travel with a student all the way through college and beyond. It is an investment not only in technology but in academic achievement. A hand-held graphing calculator is permitted on most standardized tests, including PSATs, PARCC, Advanced Placement math and science courses and the SATs. Apps and smartphones are not permitted. (Also, only graphing calculators are permitted on the Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 PARCC assessments; scientific calculators are not permitted.)

If you would like to purchase a graphing calculator for your high school child, I recommend the TI-83 Plus, the TI-84 Plus or the TI-84 Plus CE. Major differences in the three models involve memory, USB charging capabilities and color options. The following chart lists the differences in key features: [Comparison Chart](#).

Texas Instruments also provides a list of answers to frequently asked questions regarding graphing calculators: [FAQs about Graphing Calculators](#)

TI graphing calculators can be purchased at all major school and office supply stores. If you choose to purchase a calculator for your child, please make sure that it is engraved or otherwise identifiable. ***Please emphasize to your child the importance of calculator security during the school day!***

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Riback

Jennifer Riback
Supervisor of Math and Science, k-12