

Graphing Calculators Information and Purchasing Options



Dear Parents,

All mathematics courses at College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate require the use of a calculator. There are many different calculators available and it is difficult to find a calculator that may best meet the needs of a student. Here are the recommendations for calculators and these calculators can also be purchased through the school.

Grade 9 Math: Casio FX-300ES Plus

Grade 10-12 Essentials Mathematics: Casio FX-300ES Plus

Grade 10-12 Pre-Calculus: TI-84 Plus (Recommended for students continuing to AP Calculus) or the use of the Casio FX-300ES Plus

Grade 11-12 Applied: TI-84 Plus

I have compared prices at various stores and have found the best price available. If you are interested, you may purchase the calculator through the school at the price listed below. **All orders for calculators must be in as soon as possible. I have already purchased the calculators, but there are only a limited quantity so they will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. Please purchase from School Cash Online.**

Scientific Calculator Option:

Casio FX-300ES Plus	= \$ 11.99
Plus taxes (12%)	= \$ 13.43

Graphing Calculator Options:

Total Cost:

TI-84 Plus	= \$ 121.99
Plus taxes (12%)	= \$ 136.63

TI-84 Plus CE (Colour/Rechargeable Battery)	= \$ 131.99
Plus taxes (12%)	= \$ 147.83

Payment Method:

To purchase a calculator, please select the calculator on the Schools Online Cash Program.

Commonly Asked Questions About Graphing Calculators:

Which math courses require a graphing calculator at Sturgeon Heights and why?

The following courses require the TI-83 Plus or TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator:

Applied Mathematics (30 & 40) → Gr. 11 – 12

All AP Courses (Also recommended for Pre-Calculus Math from Gr. 10 to Gr. 12)

All these courses' curriculums are designed for students to examine and understand the graphs of many mathematical functions. The graphing calculator allows students to have visual representations to the algebraic equations they are working with. Some outcomes in the curriculum are not possible to learn without a graphing calculator. As students continue to learn to use the calculator they will look at specific programs built into their calculators, such as compound interest, mortgage rates and loan rates.

Which math courses require a scientific calculator at Sturgeon Heights and why?

The following courses require a scientific calculator:

- Grade 9 Math
- Grade 10 Pre-Calculus Applied
- Grade 11 and 12 Pre-Calculus
- Grade 10-12: Essentials Mathematics

The scientific calculator available for purchase through the school is nice since it has a two line display and students can type into their calculator in the same natural order that they see in their textbook. I chose this calculator because it was easy to use and relatively inexpensive.

Do I have to buy a Calculator?

No. If you are in a course which requires the use of the TI-83 Plus and do not want to purchase a calculator you may rent one from the school. **The cost to rent is \$30 per semester.** Calculators rentals can be made using school cash online as well. If you are in a course that requires a scientific calculator then you will need to buy one.

What is the difference between the TI-83 Plus, the TI-84 Plus, the TI-84 Plus CE and the TI-Nspire?

All four calculators perform all the functions necessary for high school math courses. All four calculators come with a unit-to-unit cable (allowing students to transfer information from one calculator to another). The TI-83 Plus is older technology and I would not recommend buying it, but if you have one from an older sibling it will work just fine. The TI-84 Plus comes with 3 times more memory and is 2.5 times faster than the TI-83 Plus. The TI-84 also comes with a USB cable to connect to your home computer. The TI-84 Plus CE offers 7 times the memory of the TI-84 Plus. The CE Edition comes with a colour screen and a rechargeable battery. It has more built-in applications. Finally, the TI-Nspire (not recommended) has 30 times the memory of the CE Edition, also a colour screen but runs a different operating system. Students who buy a TI-Nspire will have to figure out the functions on their own since the majority of the class will be using the TI-84 plus technology. If you purchase a TI-Nspire CX, make sure it is the Non-CAS version, as the CAS version is not allowed on some exams.

I would recommend either the TI-84 Plus or the TI-84 Plus CE Edition.

How does buying the calculator through the school benefit the school?

Every calculator that is purchased comes with a point value for a rewards program. The points are collected by the school and used to receive free products from Texas Instruments, enhancing the school's math department.

Thanks for your time. If you have any more questions, feel free to email me at evan.janzenroth@sjasd.ca.

Mr. Janzen Roth
Mathematics Department Head (Room 2A3)
College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate

To Purchase a Calculator: Please pay using the school's Online Cash program.