



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT. . .

Welcome to the Math School Year! We enjoyed seeing many of our parents at the recent Parent Academic Morning. Here, we'd like to share some more information about Anacapa's math program—including some study tips and our office hours for extra help.

A WORD FROM RACHID

CALCULUS

This year, I'm teaching Calculus and Geometry which is a nice balance of topics. The Calculus class is small, dedicated, and ready for the challenges ahead. They will be doing a lot of applications, and we'll be using some mathematical software for these applications.

GEOMETRY

The energetic Geometry class of twelve students is following the successful curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School of Mathematics Projects. The program is geared toward teaching and learning through hands-on projects, and I'm happy to report that our Anacapa students are responding positively to the format and the related work load.

AND MORE FROM BRYAN

INTRODUCING A NEW CLASS—BUSINESS ALGEBRA II

I'm excited to introduce a new math class to Anacapa's curriculum this year—Business Algebra II. Last spring, I was part of a team of 15 teachers and facilitators at the University of California Curriculum Institute that created this class. Business Algebra II brings together two powerful disciplines so that students have a stronger understanding of the mathematical concepts with the application base of their own business ideas. It has already been a treat to teach these students and to show them the natural connections between these two important subjects. Although it is still early in the school year, we will be creating and pulling together each unit we work on in class so that the students can present their ideas to a panel of business owners, loan officers, and venture capitalists. With this in mind, the students are encouraged to keep on task, make their business model as realistic as possible, and meet together very often outside of class. I know this will be a very rich learning experience for all people involved, and I look forward to the challenging material, as well as the end product of the business plan.

PRE-ALGEBRA, ALGEBRA I, AND PRE-CALCULUS

My other math classes—Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Pre-Calculus—are moving ahead and having success at understanding the concepts along the way! It is a pleasure teaching your students as they give so much personality to our classes. As much as possible, please have your student come to office hours as well as use the Khan Academy, online, as a tool to review a concept, practice it, and even look ahead to upcoming topics.

JOIN US FOR THE FAMILY MATH FAIR THIS MONTH!

The 18th Annual Family Math Fair is happening on Monday, November 21 at 7:30. It will be a great family time with some easy to difficult logic puzzles and word problems that really make you think outside the box. We will have prizes for a raffle at the end of the night, and you can earn tickets throughout the evening by answering problems correctly. Bring the whole family and you may even walk home with Trader Joe's grub to eat over the Thanksgiving weekend!

(over please)

MATH STUDY TIPS

Our math department has come up with some useful study tips that every student can begin using today. Why do students have a difficult time with their homework if they wait to work on it until the night before it is due? A way to deal with this is to:

1. Make sure you have well-taken notes and examples to guide you through many of your exercises.
2. Do your homework when you are not tired.
3. Work with a partner or study team so you can benefit from the knowledge of each person present.
4. Go to your teacher's office hours to get help or make an appointment with your teacher.
5. Do the homework when the class discussion is still "fresh" in your mind, like the day it is assigned, and with your notes and book open and right beside you.
6. Compare your answers with the textbook answer key to make sure you are on track and understanding the concepts in the lesson.
7. Keep moving through the assignment even if you get stuck on some problems.
8. Finally, check your work and refine the results, using this as a way to review concepts.
9. Keep a positive attitude and never procrastinate even if the work seems overwhelming.

OFFICE HOURS FOR BRYAN AND RACHID – GET HELP IF YOU NEED IT!

- Bryan's Office Hours: Tuesdays: 3:00-3:40
 Wednesdays: 3:00-4:00
 Other Days and Times: By Appointment.
- Rachid's Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 7:30-8:00am
 Other Days and Times: By Appointment.

~~ Rachid Labgaa and Bryan Anderson