

General Course Description

Pre Calculus is a bridge between Algebra 2 and Calculus. We'll take some of the topics you've already covered in Algebra (factoring, graphing, etc.) and raise them to a higher level. We'll also cover some entirely new topics (matrices, conics, etc.) so that when you see them in college you won't be completely caught off guard. **We'll also be focusing on writing and explaining the steps you take to solve problems.** And we do all this because, the major focus of this class is to prepare you for Calculus, whether you take it at JFK or as a freshman (or sophomore) in college.

Expectations

I expect you to be in class on time. I expect you to be prepared – you should have something to write with, something to write on and something to keep papers in. I expect you to do your work in class and if I ask you to do something, I expect you to actually do it. **This year there will be a major emphasis on group work so I expect you to participate appropriately.** I ALSO EXPECT YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARNED LAST WEEK, LAST MONTH AND LAST QUARTER. It doesn't help you if you forget everything you learn right after you learn it – and since review questions will be included on my tests, it won't help your grade either.

Appropriate Behavior/Discipline

Just act normal and you'll be fine. Don't be too loud, don't move around the classroom, and leave the food outside – in short, don't be a distraction or a mess. Act inappropriately and the usual **increasing** punishments (warnings, conference, detention, referral) will occur. In addition, no hats or electronic devices are allowed in class, so please keep them hidden at all times. If you can't put them away, they will be taken. And remember, there's a "no exit" policy so you'll only be allowed to leave class in an emergency, with a blue slip. This is all very standard stuff that you already know.

Grading In general, these will be the percentages for each grade:

A+	Over 97%	C+	77 to 80%
A	91 to 97%	C	70 to 77%
A-	90 to 91%	C-	66 to 70%
B+	87 to 90%	D+	60 to 66%
B	81 to 87%	D	53 to 60%
B-	80 to 81%	D-	50 to 53%

Anything below 50% is an F and, for purposes of semester grades, anything below 40% is an F-
The breakdown is generally **classwork + homework = 35%** of the grade while **quizzes + tests = 65%** of the grade

Semester Grading

If your grade goes **DOWN** (or stays the same) from the 1st quarter to the 2nd (or from the 3rd to the 4th), your semester grade will be the **AVERAGE** of the two grades

If your grade goes **UP** from the 1st quarter to the 2nd (or from the 3rd to the 4th), your semester grade will be the **AVERAGE** of the two grades **THEN** it will be **bumped up** to the "next" grade (if possible)

Examples:	1 st Quarter Grade = 64% (D+)	2 nd Quarter Grade = 70% (C)	Average = 67% (C-)	Bumped up to C
	1 st Quarter Grade = 54% (D)	2 nd Quarter Grade = 80% (B-)	Average = 67% (C-)	Bumped up to C
	3 rd Quarter Grade = 86% (B)	4 th Quarter Grade = 88% (B+)	Average = 87% (B+)	Can't bump to A-
	3 rd Quarter Grade = 10% (F-)	4 th Quarter Grade = 64% (D+)	Average = 37% (F-)	Bumped up to F

How a Unit Will Look

Most units will last 3 weeks. There will usually be a Unit Test at the end of each unit. There may or may not be a quiz (usually not), and all homework assigned during that unit will be DUE by the END of the UNIT. Or, to put it another way, once a unit has ended, no homework from that unit will be accepted. And every once in a while, some units will have an extra day (which means extra credit day).

How a Class Period Will Look: (For the most part)

Classwork will be worth **40 points a day**.

- 1st:** We'll start with a warm-up and/or a quick review of a topic we've already covered
- 2nd:** We'll break into pairs or groups and solve problems that are based on this topic and that are will be on my test and that are similar to those found on the SBAC test (or SAT test)
Note: we may do this more than once during a period.
- 3rd:** We'll go over new material from the current unit
- 4th:** We'll do practice problems based on this new material (this may also include group work)

Classwork

To get your classwork points, you actually have to do the classwork. Just sitting in class won't get you any points, but doing your work will. Coming in late and copying off someone won't get you any points either. If you miss a day, you can get your classwork points back if: (a) you were out for a school-related reason (a field trip for example) or (b) you were sick – you'll need an excuse, or (c) something serious (family tragedy for example). Either way, make sure you actually get the missing work done so you can have it in your notes. Missing my class to work on assignments from other classes is not an acceptable excuse, and neither are oversleeping or being in other classrooms. In these cases, you won't be allowed to make up missed work.

Homework

Most assignments will be worth **20 points**. I grade these based on accuracy and completeness, so just turning in a bunch of answers won't get you credit – to get credit you need to show the work. I usually give you a lot of time to finish assignments, but as stated previously, homework is due by the end of the unit in which it is assigned and **NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED**.

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes are shorter and tests are longer. Either way, I'll tell you well in advance what they cover, when they are and how many points they'll be worth. In PreCalc, the tests can be very long (they might actually take the whole period). If I see that you're trying, I can give you more time to finish (but if you're just wasting time/stalling, your test will be due at the end of the period). Also, I'll let you use **notes OR a cheat sheet** on the test/quiz. I'll keep you posted on which we'll do this year as we go along.

If you've been attending class (not cutting all the time), the lowest score you can get on one of my tests or quizzes is 25%. However, if you've been skipping class, the lowest score you can get is 0%. This is one advantage to coming to class regularly.