To: Students currently enrolled in Algebra 2 – Trigonometry who wish to place out of Precalculus
From: Ms. Gabriel, Math/CS Division Manager

Spring 2005

The Precalculus program at TJ is unlike other Fairfax County programs. The curriculum reflects the changing technologies and places and emphasis on discrete as well as continuous data and functions. There are no textbooks currently on the market that have all the topics and techniques that we teach, so our program is heavily supplemented.

**In order to attempt the placement test, you must have earned an A in both Algebra 1 and Geometry and achieve a 97% in Advanced Algebra 2 – Trigonometry.**

If you elect to attempt the placement test, you must complete the attached form and return it to me no later than May 31. All of the information necessary to prepare for the placement test is on-line. Go to [http://www.tjhsst.edu/~alittle/cs_math/materials.html](http://www.tjhsst.edu/~alittle/cs_math/materials.html) and you will see links available for you to download sample assignments from the book we currently use, and five packets that we complete in addition to the textbook: Vectors, Limits and Continuity, Introduction to Derivatives, Derivative Rules, and Derivative Applications. You are responsible for everything in the book and in the packets.

The graphing calculator is used as an integral part of the Precalculus curriculum, but it is still necessary for you to master basic non-calculator skills. For example, all students should be able to solve trigonometric equations analytically as well as graphically. This requires knowledge of special angles. All students must be able to write the equation of a given graph. Students must be able to graph a function given the graph of its derivative, etc. Therefore, the test has both calculator and non-calculator portions. It is expected that you will bring a calculator to the test (one will not be provided). The most commonly used calculators in our Precalculus classes are the TI-83+ or TI-89 or equivalent.

It is school policy not to loan textbooks. The book we use is by Sullivan & Sullivan; *Precalculus: Graphing and Data Analysis (2nd ed.),* Prentice Hall, 2001. The ISBN number is 0-13-028955-8. The class assignments are related to this text. It is often possible to find copies of this text in used book stores or on-line.

Please note the very important following items:

- The placement test is given only once. It is scheduled for Friday, August 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. The test site is room 243.
- You will earn placement into Precalculus if you achieve a 90% on the exam. You will not earn a math credit. You will then be moved into a BC Calculus class.
- You must return your Test Request form no later than May 31. The address is

  Patricia Gabriel, TJHSST
  6560 Braddock Rd.
  Alexandria, VA  22312
TJHSST Precalculus Test Request/Verification Form

Please print.

Name______________________________________________________________

Address_________________________________________________________________

Street                City                Zip

Home Phone____________________________________________________________

e-mail______________________________________________________________

Current grade level________________________ Current Math Class ________________________

Please verify the following criteria in order to take the Precalculus placement test.

1. A’s in Algebra 1 and Geometry. Verification by guidance counselor upon review of transcript.

2. 97% average in Advanced Algebra 2 - Trigonometry. Verification by current teacher. (This will be checked at the end of the year. If anyone falls below this average, he/she will be notified and will not be allowed to take the exam.)

By my signature below, I am indicating that I understand and will abide by the Placement Test policy:

- The placement test is given only once. It is scheduled for Friday, August 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. The test site is room 243.
- I will earn placement into BC Calculus if I achieve an 90% on the exam. I will not earn a Precalculus credit.

__________________________________________________________

Student Signature                      Parent/Guardian Signature

Date______________________________________________

You must return your Test Request form no later than May 31.

Patricia Gabriel, TJHSST