



KINNELON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents,

As we plan for another school year, one consideration is the purchase of school supplies. Technology has become an integral part of our lives, and in mathematics, it is becoming indispensable. Technology will be used extensively in all Algebra 1 classes.

One exciting component of Algebra 1 instruction will be the use of graphing technology. Graphing technology aids students in discovering new ways to think about problems. Additionally, graphing technology will enable students to visualize functions and make inferences about mathematical data. These tools give students a way to explore ideas and visualize concepts in greater depth than would otherwise be possible. Used appropriately, graphing technology can help lead to better comprehension of concepts and their real-world applications.

Using a graphing calculator is a skill that should be practiced to make maximum use of this technology. In fact, the use of a graphing calculator for the state-mandated Algebra 1 End-of-Course exam is highly recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education. However, please be assured that we also recognize that using technology in the classroom is not a substitute for mastery of basic skills. Indeed, we will continue to stress building every student's fundamental skills in mathematics.



Although any graphing calculator may be used, **the Kinnelon mathematics department strongly recommends the purchase of a TI-Nspire handheld with Touchpad (NOT CAS version) for use in all Algebra 1 mathematics courses.**

This will enable students to use the same calculator for all years of high school mathematics, and it can be taken to college as well. The TI-Nspire handheld comes with computer software for your child to use at home and an interchangeable TI-84 Plus keypad that will allow your child to use the calculator in any math class. The calculator is also approved for use on standardized tests including, HSPA, SAT, and AP exams. If you want more information about this calculator, you can visit www.ti-nspire.com. They can be purchased at Staples, Best Buy, or EAI Education.com, as well as other retailers.

This school year promises to be an exciting one. We are energized by the prospect of working with your children to help them succeed this year and provide them with a solid foundation of Algebra 1 for their future education.

Sincerely,

Algebra 1 Teachers