MTH 161/2 – Precalculus I and II
2018-2019

Teacher: Brandon Wright
Contact: Brandon.Wright@apsva.us
Website: https://washingtonlee.apsva.us/post/staff/wright-brandon-overview/

Room: 4016
Phone: 703.228.6200

Class Description: In this class we will explore topics that will be applied to Calculus. Precalculus is a program of mathematical studies focusing on the development of the student’s ability to understand and apply the study of functions and advanced mathematics concepts to solve problems.


Credits: 1 High School Credit and 6 NVCC credits for full completion of the courses.

Prerequisite: Competency in MTE 1-9 as demonstrated through placement or unit completion or equivalent or Corequisite: MCR 6. You may not continue with MTH 162 if you earn a D or E in MTH 161.

Materials: You are required to bring all necessary materials to class daily:
- Textbook
- Paper
- Pencil(s)
- Binder
- Scientific or higher calculator (TI-83 plus or higher calculator is highly recommended)

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessments/Projects</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Classwork</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be 2 different final exams for this course. One for MTH 161 in late December or early January, and one for MTH 162 in mid-May. There are NO EXEMPTIONS for the final exams.

In order to simulate the experience of a college-level semester course, grades for MTH 161 will carry over across both 1st and 2nd quarters. The 1st quarter grade will be equivalent to an interim grade in a college-level semester course, although it will be reported as the 1st quarter grade on the APS report card. No grades will be counted twice, but a student will be able to see a running record of his/her grades throughout the entire semester.

MTH 162 will work the same way across the 3rd and 4th quarters.

All assessments may contain any previously taught material. Student grades reflect student achievement and not student behavior.

NVCC Grading Guidelines:
This is a dual enrollment course with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). As a result, there are grading requirements made by NVCC that vary slightly from the APS grading guidelines. These requirements include:

1. Submission of two separate grades to NVCC, one for MTH 161 and one for MTH 162. However, the final grade on the APS transcript will be a combination of the two grades.

2. The Final Exam is required for the course. A separate final exam at the end of each course. MTH 161’s final exam will be administered during 2nd quarter, while MTH 162’s final exam will be administered before Senior Experience begins.

3. Not using plus or minus grades for the NVCC final grades. For example, a student may receive a B+ on their APS transcript, but that grade will be reported as a B for the NVCC transcript. High school GPA is determined by the APS transcript only.
**Drop/Withdrawal Information:**
Dropped classes will not appear on the student’s transcripts while a withdrawal will appear on the transcripts as a “W”. If you choose to exercise either of these options, please speak with me as I need to send information to NVCC.

MTH 161: Drop date – October 5th  
Withdrawal Date – December 4th
MTH 162: Drop date – February 18th  
Withdrawal Date – April 23rd

**Course Expectations:**
This is a college course so my expectations for you are high. Students must take the responsibility for understanding the material by:
1. Be present for all class meetings.
2. Using time management skills to ensure keeping up with the class.
3. Completing homework and other assignments - including online assignments.
4. Turning in things on time - **no late work accepted**.
5. Not expecting credit for work that does not deserve any. Grades are based on quality.
6. It is expected that all students understand what constitutes appropriate behavior. You can refer to your student handbook regarding particular policies. Remember beyond the 2nd unexcused tardy in a quarter a detention will be assigned to the student.
7. Please note that electronic devices (cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, smartwatches, etc.) should be turned off at all times in my class.  **See the full math department electronic device policy at end of syllabus.**

**Make-up Policies**
1. **Tests:** You will be asked to make up any previously scheduled missed test within one week of the last day of your absence. You must take the responsibility to schedule a make-up time. **Credit will not be given if you have an unverified absence on the day of a test or quiz.**
2. **Homework:** Will be due on the day on which the student returns to school from an excused absence. No credit will be given for homework assignments missed due to an unverified absence.
3. **Projects:** Will be due on the day on which the student returns to school. A project will be considered late if a student has an unverified absence on the day it is due.
4. The teacher and student will determine a calendar for make-up work that results from an extended absence.
5. Getting notes and worksheets from the day of an absence is the responsibility of the student. Visit Mr. Wright’s website for any posted notes.

**Homework:**
Unit homework assignments will be due on the day of the unit test.

Generally, the answers will be in the back of the book (odd questions). Students are to check their work before class. A complete assignment must include the original problem with **all work shown.** A zero will be given to homework with no or little work shown. Students must complete the assignments with sufficient accuracy to demonstrate comprehension. Students are to ask questions on homework not understood in class the next day.

**Homework turned in on time (with comprehension demonstrated) will receive full marks. If no work is shown, do not expect full marks on the homework assignment.**

**Assessments (Tests/Quizzes):**
All assessments, including quizzes, tests, quarter exams, and final exams, may contain any previously taught material. Tests will be administered at the conclusion of each unit or major topic. Quizzes will be announced (traditional) or unannounced. **There are no retakes on tests or quizzes. Students should actively participate in reviews and ask questions when they need additional support or clarification.**

You will be asked to make up any previously scheduled missed test within one week of the last day of your absence. You must take the responsibility to schedule a make-up time. **Credit will not be given if you have an unverified absence on the day of a test or quiz.**
**Academic Integrity:**
Students are both part of Arlington Public Schools (APS) and NVCC, and they are accountable for both academic honor codes:

*APS (page 8-9 of Washington-Lee High School student handbook)*

There is one fundamental principle: all work submitted must be the student's own. For homework and class work, students may ask for assistance from other classmates or faculty, but each student's work should be unique. During exams, help is not to be given or accepted. Using another student's work or answers and claiming them as your own is a violation. Violations will result in an automatic zero on the assignment or exam. In addition, parents and the administration will be contacted.

*NVCC (http://www.nvcc.edu/catalog/cat2013/policies/integrity.html)*

Neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated. If you are found cheating or plagiarizing, you will receive a grade of 0 and the incident reported to the department and dean. According the NOVA Student Handbook:

> “Academic dishonesty cannot be condoned. When such misconduct is established as having occurred, it subjects you to possible disciplinary actions ranging from admonition to dismissal, along with any grade penalty the instructor might, in appropriate cases, impose. Procedural safeguards of due process and appeal are available to you in disciplinary matters.”

Please reference the student handbook online at http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/policies--forms/student-handbook/.

**Major Topics Covered**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MTH 161</th>
<th>MTH 162</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Relations and Functions</td>
<td>a) Trigonometric Functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Polynomial and Rational Functions</td>
<td>b) Analytic Trigonometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Exponential and Logarithmic Functions</td>
<td>c) Applications of Trigonometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Systems of Equations</td>
<td>d) Conics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Sequences and Series</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where To Find Extra Help:**
At some point during this course it is not unusual to find you need extra help. Below are several resources at your disposal and pertinent information about them:

- **Zero Period** – Room 4016
  - 7:20-8:10 daily
- **Generals period**
  - Must get a pass from Mr. Wright to attend.
- **Lunch** – Room 4017
  - A teacher will be present during each lunch to help.
- **After School**
  - Mr. Wright’s Room (room 4016)
    - Most days (Wednesday is usually a meeting day for the school)
    - 3:01-4:00 ish
    - Let me know if you plan to come after school, as I will leave if no one is in my room by 3:20
NOVA Student resources

In addition to all the benefits that a student has at Washington-Lee, dual enrollment students also benefit from NVCC resources such as tutoring, library, advising/counseling, and several more. Information about each resource can be found below.

- **Advising and Counseling**
  - Students can receive advising relating to academic goals, career planning, college transferring, disability services or retention. Please visit the Advising and Counseling website: [http://www.nvcc.edu/advising/](http://www.nvcc.edu/advising/)

- **Library resources**
  - As a NOVA dual enrollment student, you can use the NOVA library system. This includes each of the campus libraries but also the online resources associated with the library system. For more information, see the library website: [http://libguides.nvcc.edu/dual-enrollment](http://libguides.nvcc.edu/dual-enrollment)

- **Tutoring**
  - Dual enrollment students also have access to free tutoring services for their NOVA classes on each campus. Please see the tutoring website for hours and policies for each campus. [http://www.nvcc.edu/tutoring/](http://www.nvcc.edu/tutoring/)

- **Student Life**
  - Dual enrollment students can take part in many of the programs, clubs and activities that Student Life provides. Please see the Student Life website for more information: [http://www.nvcc.edu/students/](http://www.nvcc.edu/students/)

- **NOVA Card**
  - NOVACard is the official identification card of Northern Virginia Community College. All NOVA students are encouraged to get a free NOVACard in order to access these benefits and services: [http://nvcc.edu/novacard/index.html](http://nvcc.edu/novacard/index.html)

For more information, please view the Dual Enrollment Manual at [https://www.nvcc.edu/dual-enrollment/manual.html](https://www.nvcc.edu/dual-enrollment/manual.html)

Electronic Devices Policy

In order to help maintain a classroom environment centered on learning, the math department has adopted a cell phone policy in all math classrooms.

Students will not have cell phones (or other electronic devices) on their person, their desk, or visible in any way. Cell phones (or other electronic devices) must be silenced and out of sight at all times unless specifically permitted for instructional purposes.

- Upon the first offense the student will hand over their device until the end of class. If a student refuses, administration will be notified.
- Upon the second offense the device will be turned over to the main office for the student to collect at the end of the day.
- Any offense beyond that will require a parent or legal guardian to come to Washington-Lee to collect the device from the student’s administrator.