

Dear AP Calculus BC student (or parent):

[If you are a parent, I would greatly appreciate it if you could make sure your child receives this email from his calculus teacher! Thank you!!]

Congratulations and Welcome! You are receiving this letter because you are on the AP Calculus BC roster for 2025-2026. This is the year when all your many years of math finally come together: algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and pre-calculus, and we can see the power of mathematics in action! This class will prepare you to take the AP Calculus BC exam in May 2026, which can potentially qualify you for 2 semesters of college calculus. If you believe you are getting this message in error, please email me so we can ensure you are in the right math class.

I am excited to introduce myself as your AP Calculus BC teacher. I am Mrs. Diana Shak. I graduated from Stanford University, where I received a bachelor's degree in Math and Computational Sciences and a master's degree in computer science. I worked as a software database engineer and instructor at Tandem Computers for 10 years prior to transitioning to teaching. It's hard to believe that I have been teaching AP Calculus BC at Valley Christian for two decades! I feel blessed to have a job where I'm able to share my love for God, students, and mathematics daily! I am a mother of three: all VCS alums and AP Calculus BC graduates (2 Stanford graduates and 1 UCLA/UCSF graduate).

Your textbook is Calculus of a Single Variable, 11th Edition, by Larson, Hostetler, and Edwards. We are offering the online version of the textbook through WebAssign (www.webassign.com). **Students will be automatically enrolled in their WebAssign class at the start of the year and will purchase access through our online bookseller, Shelfit.** For students who prefer a hardback textbook, you are certainly welcome to purchase or borrow a used hardcopy, but you will still be required to purchase the WebAssign account through Shelfit for online submission of homework.

In addition to the lower fees for the digital textbook, WebAssign offers corresponding video tutorials that accompany each chapter. These videos will be especially helpful for topics you find particularly difficult, or for times when you may be absent. In calculus, it is extremely important that students learn how to **SHOW FULL WORK**, often justifying a correct answer. While most of our textbook homework will be submitted online through WebAssign, **you will also need a spiral-bound homework notebook to show your work** and thought process. These notebooks will be collected and graded periodically throughout the semesters as a part of your binder checks.

We will be using the TI84+ graphing calculator in class. Please bring your calculator every day. If you have a different model, you will need to verify that it is an acceptable calculator for the AP exam. Feel free to check with me or the AP web page, www.collegeboard.com, for the list of acceptable calculators for AP Calculus.

AP Calculus BC is a challenging fast-paced course. You have qualified for this course only if you received good grades in Pre-Calculus Honors or AP Calculus AB (or its equivalent), and with personal recommendation from your previous math teacher. The difference between AP Calculus AB and BC is the pacing. This course begins by reviewing pre-calculus (Calculus A) topics at a quick pace, assuming coverage in a previous math course. Most of AP Calculus AB course content will be taught in the first semester, continuing onto Calculus C topics semester 2. See your counselor if you think you may be more suitable for the slower-paced AP Calculus AB course. To help you review and prepare for Calculus BC, the following is the **required** summer homework:

- Do both Summer Packets. **Due 1st day of class for your first homework grade.** (Do not wait until the last minute to do this packet, as it is a bit lengthy). To find summer homework online:

1. Go to <https://learn.vcs.net/course/view.php?id=1112>

2. Select the Math tab (on the left) and find homework for AP Calculus AB & BC

**** NOTE:** You may want to check out the other departments as well while you are here to see if you have summer homework assignments for your other classes.

- If you do not have access to a printer (or if more convenient), you can work on the packet in Notability, and generate a PDF of your work. AP Calculus BC students should generate 2 PDFs, one for each assignment.
- You are welcome to turn in your summer HW on the first day either on paper or digitally. Two digital submission links will be provided on learn@vcs.net for those who want to submit digitally on the first day of class. If you did your summer homework on paper, but prefer to submit it digitally, please see the following short YouTube videos that show you how to use your phone to scan a document:
 - iPhone: <https://youtu.be/16nwB3P78GQ>
 - Android: <https://youtu.be/0afrZE3416w>
- **Please note that AP Calculus BC students have 2 packets:** 1st packet reviews pre-requisite skills for both AB and BC students. 2nd packet reviews pre-requisite skills for just BC students.
- [optional] If pre-requisite skills are rusty, I highly recommend the following book, “The Stepping Stones to Calculus: A Comprehensive Guide to the Mathematics You Need to Know” by Sharon Cade, which covers important skills from fractions and exponents all the way to trigonometry and infinite series (kindle version available on Amazon). Skim over sections during the summer and work through topics that you need to relearn or review. Students may find this book helpful when reviewing math skills for PSAT, SAT, GRE or GMAT as well.
- Review Unit Circle. This is included in the summer packet. Make copies of the Unit Circle Worksheet and practice repeatedly until you are very familiar with the trig functions of these basic angles.
- Please note that for AP Calculus BC, I will be going over Calculus A topics very quickly. These topics include preparation for calculus (topics covered in the summer packet), limits, and basic derivatives. These topics should have been covered in your honors trig or AP Calc AB course.
- **NOTE: For Students who just completed AP Calculus AB with Mr. Nyberg before coming into Calc BC:** the 1st summer packet will be optional for you since you did this homework last summer before AP Calc AB. If you don’t remember doing this packet or would like to review your algebra/geometry/trig/precalculus during the summer, then do this again ... a good way to keep your math skills sharp during the summer! **2nd packet is DEFINITELY REQUIRED** for you as it reviews skills you haven’t seen in a long time.

Answers for the summer homework packet have been posted for you to double-check. Of course, you will not get credit for summer homework if you show answers only, without showing the work! Make sure to only use the solutions to check your work not do the homework!

If you have questions about the class or the summer homework, feel free to email me at dshak@vcs.net. I will check my email periodically throughout the summer. I look forward to getting to know each of you soon. I will be praying for each of you before our first class. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Shak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diana Shak
AP Calculus BC Teacher
Valley Christian High School