

What to do . . . after Algebra 2???

2006

The math department at Calabasas High School is proud of the large number of students who continue their math education beyond Algebra 2 or Intermediate Algebra. Our department offers many excellent courses that meet the needs of students with a variety of mathematical abilities and educational objectives. This letter will answer some of your questions and, if needed, prompt you to ask other questions to best meet your needs when selecting courses. It is important to talk to your counselor, college representative, and/or current math teacher and consider your math ability when choosing your course of study. The four options after Algebra 2 are A.P. Computer Science, Finite Math, Math Analysis and A.P. Statistics. These courses may be taken concurrently. Below is a brief description of each. The only course available after Intermediate Algebra is Finite Math. Please note that A.P. Computer Science may also be taken after Geometry.

Advanced Placement Computer Science – This is a college level computer science course, designed for students who are pursuing majors that require a significant involvement with computing (i.e., math, engineering, science, business, etc.) and have demonstrated an exceptional ability in mathematics. Topics will include programming methodology, algorithms, data structures and data abstractions. If you have any questions about this course, see Mr. McCollum in room M-1.

Finite Math – This course is a sampling of math topics that students will find useful in later life even if they do not intend to take math/science oriented courses in college. Topics include a brief review of Algebra 2, linear programming, probability, statistics, finance, logic and trigonometry. Applications include economics, finance and business. Students will be given opportunities to work on projects such as profit maximization using linear programming methods, stock investments and a car purchase/car loan simulation. The pace of this course is moderate, providing students an opportunity to be successful in an interesting and practical math course. This can be taken after successful completion of Intermediate Algebra with teacher recommendation or Algebra 2 with a C or better.

Math Analysis – This course, also known as Pre-Calculus, is the traditional course for students going into math, science, or engineering careers. It is the most rigorous college prep course offered. The topics covered in this course including trigonometry and vectors, are essential to the study of Physics. The course content is a prerequisite for Advanced Placement Calculus and most college math courses. This course is recommended for students earning an “A” or “B” in both semesters of Algebra 2. Math Analysis Honors is also available to qualified students.

Advanced Placement Statistics – This is a college level, non-calculus based, statistics course that prepares students to take the A.P. exam in May. Students study four major themes: exploring data analysis, planning a study, probability and statistical inference. This course will benefit students in all areas of future study. Practical applications include consumer marketing, investment, political polling and understanding research studies. Students will conduct their own survey or study. Most college majors require students to take a statistics course. Students will use technology including graphing calculators and computers. Although students are not required to take the A.P. exam, it is encouraged. We believe it provides motivation for review, deeper understanding and better retention of the topics covered. This course is recommended for students who have earned an “A” or “B” in Algebra 2.

We hope this information is helpful. Since mathematics is such an important area of study, we recommend that each student make course selections that match their individual needs, goals, interests and abilities. If you have any questions, please see your math teacher or Mrs. Midiri in M-8. Thank you for your careful consideration of all your options and happy adding, subtracting, etc...