The Pre-Calculus Manifesto

Our goals for this Pre-AP Pre-Calculus class transcend simply finding the correct answers to problems; thus it is in our collective best interest to commit to certain guidelines of excellence.

<u>In general</u>: **Each student is expected to do everything undertaken to the very best of his/her abilities every day.** Since I expect no more of my students than I do of myself, I will give you my very best effort every day, and I will model for you this general principle as well as the guidelines listed below in all that I do with you.

1. Above all else, **honesty is expected from all students at all times**. For example, collaboration on homework and checking answers in the back of the book are not only acceptable, they are encouraged. Giving or receiving aid on a test or quiz is not acceptable, nor is giving yourself credit for work that you did not do. By now, you should know right from wrong – do what is right and honorable, if not because my personal tolerance for dishonesty is extremely low, then because you know that it is always the correct path to follow.
2. All answers will be supported by **<u>well-organized,</u> <u>easy-to-follow</u>** written work which <u>must</u> be submitted with the answers if credit is to be awarded. The first time that this standard is not met, unacceptable work will be returned ungraded to the student, who will have one day to re-submit the work in an acceptable form. After that, unacceptable work will be assigned a grade of zero.
3. If a calculator is used to find an answer, then your written work will reflect what was entered into the calculator. Henceforth, this will be referred to as "calculator-ready form" of an answer.
4. Written work will be *labeled* with what you are finding as well as how you are finding it
   (e.g., $\underline{P} = \dfrac{2\pi}{8} = \dfrac{\pi}{4}$). Answers will be labeled with correct units.
5. Written work will contain <u>*only*</u> mathematically correct statements. For example, the statement," $12 \times 10 = 120 \div 2 = 60$ " is unacceptable because $12 \times 10 \neq 60$. Instead, this statement should read, " $\dfrac{12 \times 10}{2} = \dfrac{120}{2} = 60$," which IS mathematically correct.
6. Verbal explanations will be written in complete sentences using correct spelling and grammar.
7. For each problem, indicate the <u>one</u> answer that you want graded by drawing a $\boxed{\text{box}}$ around it. Do NOT box in more than one answer, even if one is intended to be an alternate form of the other.
8. In general, unless otherwise specified, decimal approximations of answers are <u>not</u> acceptable. Answers must be <u>exact</u> and reduced to lowest terms. Hence, the ratio of yards to feet, for example, may be written as $\dfrac{1}{3}$, but not as 0.33 or $0.\overline{3}$.   Similarly, the circumference of a circle with diameter of 2 must be written as 2π, not as $\dfrac{4\pi}{2}, \dfrac{44}{7}$, or 6.28. The ratio of gallons to quarts may be written either as $\dfrac{1}{4}$ or 0.25.
9. When directions indicate that a decimal answer is acceptable, unless otherwise specified, decimal answers will be rounded or truncated to the AP Calculus standard of 3 decimal places.
10. Never EVER round an intermediate answer and then use that rounded value to perform a subsequent calculation, as this will undermine the accuracy of your final answer. We will discuss in class how to avoid this common mistake.

Your very presence in this class identifies you as an exceptional person, and my expectations for exceptional people are correspondingly high. In general, you are expected to be honest, dependable, and thorough people in all that you do. You will practice expressing your thoughts clearly both verbally and in writing and you will learn to give attention to detail in all that you do. Five years hence you may find yourself with little use for or recollection of the majority of the math taught in here. However, these more general skills that we will develop will serve you well not only in future math classes and on AP tests, but in life beyond high school and college as well.