

TO: AMES Math Students  
FROM: AMES Math Department

We will be using graphing calculators as an important part of our math classes at AMES. All students should either purchase a graphing calculator or else rent one from the school. AMES has several graphing calculators that are available for renting to students. The rental fee for one school year's use is \$45. AMES provides calculators to students who qualify for fee waivers. If the rental calculator is either lost or damaged, the students MUST pay replacement cost. (\$95)

- For all math classes up until Calculus, the recommended calculator is the TI83 from Texas Instruments. It doesn't matter whether it's a regular TI83 or a TI83+ or a TI83+Silver. They are all basically the same model, with only minor differences.
- For Calculus classes, the recommended calculator is either the TI83 or the TI89, both from Texas Instruments. If you are in Calculus and you already have a TI83 from before, you can use it with no problem. You don't need to get a TI89. The TI89 does have some advanced features that will be used by the Calculus teacher for occasional class demonstrations and so it might be nice for Calculus students to have a TI89, but it is not required.

If you already have a different model of graphing calculator that you like better than the ones we recommend above, you are welcome to use it but you should be warned that you will need to learn for yourself how to use it. In the past, several students chose to use calculators that were different from the recommended models and although some of them did fine with their choice, others of them later came to regret it. They had trouble figuring out how to use their calculators and they fell behind their fellow students who had the recommended model. If you use the recommended model then you can follow along in class as we show everyone which buttons to push in order to get the right results. If you use a different calculator you will have to figure out for yourself which buttons to push and on some models that can be complicated. Please note that we are not recommending the TI89 for the non-Calculus math classes.

If you want to rent a calculator from the school, please fill out the form below and return it with a check for \$45 made out to Academy for Math, Engineering and Science. If you're on the fee waiver program, you still must complete the form.

----- Cut Here -----

I \_\_\_\_\_ agree to accept financial responsibility for the  
(please print parent or guardian name)

calculator that will be rented by \_\_\_\_\_. If the calculator is lost or  
(please print student name)

damaged, I agree to pay the full cost of purchasing a new replacement calculator.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent or guardian signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Please check one:

\$45 Rental Fee Enclosed

Fee Waiver Applies

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calculator Serial Number (to be filled in by the teacher)