

Calculator Guidelines for the 2010-2011 School Year Edina Public Schools Secondary Mathematics Program

The table below provides the calculator recommendations for mathematics courses at South View Middle School, Valley View Middle School, and Edina High School for the 2010-2011 School Year.

Course	Recommended Calculator
Pre-Transition Mathematics	TI - 15 (from elementary grades)
Transition Mathematics	TI - 15 (from elementary grades)
Algebra	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad
Geometry	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad
Advanced Algebra (includes Advanced Algebra 1 of 3, 2 of 3, and 3 of 3)	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad
Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry (FST)	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad
AP Statistics and Trigonometry	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad
*Precalculus	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad or TI83/84
*Calculus AB and BC	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad or TI83/84
*College Algebra Prep	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad or TI83/84 or any **scientific calculator
*Standards Statistics	TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad or TI83/84
Edina Math I	**scientific calculator
Edina Math II	**scientific calculator

*Either calculator is acceptable.

**A scientific calculator has power, trig, log, and root keys. It is more sophisticated than an elementary +/-X/ calculator, but it does not have the larger screen of a graphing calculator.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does "recommended" mean?

All students need a calculator as they progress through the Edina mathematics program. In Pre-Transition Mathematics and Transition Mathematics the students can use the same calculator (TI-15) they used in elementary school. Starting with Algebra, the students will be engaged in activities for which they need access to a scientific calculator, a graphing utility, a statistics utility, a Dynamic Geometry System (DGS), and a Computer Algebra System (CAS). Students will need access to these features to complete their assignments. All of these features are most conveniently available in the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad calculator; therefore, the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad is the recommended calculator. Access to

these TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad features is also possible through the combined use of a free software download called *GeoGebra* (<http://www.geogebra.org/cms/>) and a website called *Wolfram|Alpha* (<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>). While *GeoGebra* and *Wolfram|Alpha* provide access to the necessary features, the text materials and classroom instruction are better aligned with the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad.

Is there a difference between the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad and the TI-Nspire CAS?

There is a difference with the keypads. The original TI-Nspire CAS has a keypad called a Clickpad. The updated TI-Nspire CAS has a keypad called a Touchpad. The Touchpad is a little easier to use, but either one is OK. Students who purchased the original TI-Nspire CAS do NOT need to upgrade to the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad.

*What if the recommendation includes the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad OR the TI83/84?

Students in these courses are in a period of transition in the Edina mathematics program. Some students will have the new TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad, and other students will continue with their previously purchased TI83/84. Both calculators are acceptable.

What about standardized testing?

The TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad is permitted on the PSAT, SAT, SATII, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's), and Advanced Placement Exams. It is NOT permitted on the PLAN or ACT. While no calculator is needed for the PLAN or ACT, most students will likely want to use a calculator similar to what they used in elementary school or a scientific calculator. It is very important that students take a practice test with their calculator and that they are comfortable using it. If a student does not have access to a calculator that is permissible on the PLAN or ACT, they can check out a basic calculator from the EHS Media Center prior to the exam. Again, it is important that the student practice with the calculator they will be using for the exam.

If I choose to purchase the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad, what is the process?

The TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad is NOT presently available through local retail outlets such as Office Max or Best Buy. It is available through online providers such as Amazon.com, and for a discounted



price for Edina families through a local wholesale outlet in Richfield called Calculators Inc. Please be careful to purchase the correct model. There are 4 different models of the TI-Nspire, and we recommend the **TI-Nspire CAS TOUCHPAD** which is colored black and pictured above.

Three ways to purchase a calculator:

1. Amazon.com (search under electronics for TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad). The price as of May 2010 was between \$136 and \$156.
2. You can purchase the calculator directly from Calculators Inc. at the Back to School or Get Connected day at South View Middle School, Valley View Middle School, and Edina High School in August before school starts. The schools will communicate the exact dates and times with their back to school information. The price will be \$123.75 plus tax for a total of \$132.75. Cash or check only.
3. Call Calculators Inc. in Richfield, MN at 612.866.8908. You can send them a check in the mail, and they will ship a calculator to you directly. The price is \$123.75 plus tax plus \$8 shipping for a total of \$140.75. If you call first, and place your order, you can also pick up the calculator yourself at 7409 Freemont Ave S, Richfield, MN 55423 and avoid the shipping fee.

If I choose to purchase the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad, will I have to purchase a new calculator again?

No. A student who purchases the TI-Nspire CAS Touchpad will not have to purchase a new calculator for subsequent middle school or high school math courses.

Are there any loan, check out, or monthly payment options?

Yes, based on financial need. Some calculators are available for students to check out for the year. There is also a monthly payment option. Contact the building principal for more information.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Scott Woelber, K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, 952.848.4953.

scowoelber@edina.k12.mn.us