



**Jim Dang, High School of Performing and Visual Arts Math Department**

E-mail: [vdang@houstonisd.org](mailto:vdang@houstonisd.org)

Website: [www.dangmath.com](http://www.dangmath.com)

August 27/28, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

First, allow me to welcome you to another exciting yet ambitious school year. The skills learned in mathematics will assist your son or daughter to live in a more productive life as well as further themselves in other academic, performing, and visual art courses.

The most successful students are those who take responsibility of their own progress. As the teacher of record, your child can expect the lessons be taught through varied instructional skills. It is my goal to establish a rigorous curriculum, which will involve an inordinate amount of critical thinking and higher level problem solving skills, to prepare them for postsecondary education. Please help your son or daughter to grow in self-motivation and develop strong study habits. Your interest and support of your child are crucial of maintaining academic achievement. As a guardian, you do have an opportunity to view your child's grades and attendance by logging into Houston ISD's website at [houstonisd.org](http://houstonisd.org) and clicking under the section of "parents."

Your child's grade breakdown is as follows: **60% tests and projects (summative), 30% quizzes (formative), and 10% homework.** There will be at least two tests per six weeks. During tests, your child should expect to see a few problems which may be unfamiliar but are solvable using the methods and theory learned through the lessons. It is my job to get your child ready for these tests.

In a weekly basis, a quiz maybe given. Your child has an option to complete quiz corrections (for most quizzes). To earn their points back, they must complete all of their corrections on either a separate sheet of paper in the proper format and staple it with the original quiz. Your child can earn up to half their missed points in return. They are typically due when on the exam day. Late corrections will not be accepted. If your child misses a quiz, the exam grade can replace their quiz grade.

Practice is essential for your child's success. Homework is almost always given and is not optional. They make up 10% of your child's grade. Please note that homework will not be taken up late, but I will drop their lowest grade. There is a calendar on the website, as well. If your child completes all their homework on time with scores no lower than a 5 out of 10, and completes quiz corrections to the best of their ability, I will drop their quiz grades and replace it with their test grade (whichever is higher). If your child is absent, please tell your child to visit my website at [dangmath.com](http://dangmath.com). They can download the PowerPoint notes, guided notes, and worksheets.

Your child does not need to purchase a graphing calculator. However, your child will be responsible for returning them at the end of every class period. They cannot take the calculator away

from the classroom. There are some websites of which students can use graphing calculators online and links are available through my website. If you plan on purchasing a graphing calculator, I highly recommend a TI-83 to TI-84 Plus (Texas Instruments). TI-89, TI-93, and TI-inspire's will not be allowed. I also ask that your child bring in **one four pack of AAA batteries** (brand does not matter).

In order to expedite the communication outside the classroom to a greater degree, I am asking parents to send me an e-mail at [vdang@houstonisd.org](mailto:vdang@houstonisd.org). In the e-mail subject line, please identify your child's name and period. In the body of the message, please identify yourself and a couple of sentences about yourself and your family. First, it proves the e-mail address is in working condition. Secondly, I will do my best to communicate every two weeks with upcoming assignments and dates. I also ask your child to make sure and check the Algebra II Facebook or Twitter page often. It is your child's responsibility to check the website frequently.

Finally, I am asking for assistance in supplies. During the school year, we do run quite low in certain resources. It would be gracious if I can ask for the following:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> period: | 1 box of tissues                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> period: | 1 box of markers                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> period: | 1 10-pack of pencils preferably non-sharpened    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> period: | 1 10-key calculator (not scientific or graphing) |

All of the items can be purchased at any local market or dollar store.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate and contact me either through e-mail. I will do my best to answer your question(s) in a timely fashion. Together as a team, we will make this a superb year for your child.

Sincerely,

Jim Dang

**Remember:** Parents, please send an e-mail to [vdang@houstonisd.org](mailto:vdang@houstonisd.org) with your child's name and period number in the subject area and a short description of yourself (such as where you work, etc...). It is also to confirm that you understand your child's expectations for this class.