Welcome to Mrs. Castor's AP Calculus AB Class!

I am extremely excited to have you in class this year. This letter will provide basic information that will allow you to be successful. Please read over it carefully and share it with your parents. Keep it for future reference.

A major key to thriving students is teacher/parent/student communication. I want to help all of my students prosper in this class, preparing them for life after high school by encouraging them to strive for excellence. With parental help by providing encouragement and support at home, I believe each student can achieve his or her maximum potential.   Please feel free to call me at school (817-299-1900) and leave a message or email me at MekishaCastor@misdmail.org if you or your parents have any questions. You may also contact me through the class website listed below.

Three websites that will be vital for your success this year:

(1) Skyward: http://www.mansfieldisd.org/skyward.htm   This is our grade book system. Your grade should be monitored frequently – there should be **no surprises**!!!
(2) Our class website: http://fhscastormath.weebly.com   I will use this site to help disseminate information such as calendars, upcoming events, and other helpful items.
(3) Houston Area Calculus Teachers – www.houstonact.org. This website contains practice AP tests, as well as video lessons and powerpoints. It has an enormous amount of information!!!

PLEASE UTILIZE THESE RESOURCES!!!

Course Description – This course covers everything in the Calculus AB topic outline as it appears in the *AP Calculus Course* Description, found at http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/ap-calculus-course-description.pdf. The two primary objectives of this course are for students to perform well on the AP Exam and for them to do well on subsequent courses.

Textbook – This course will utilize the Larson Hostetler Calculus 8th Edition book. Textbooks will be transferred to iBooks on students' iPads. A hard copy of the textbook will also be available for distribution if necessary.

Critical Components – Calculus AB centers on two main ideas – Derivatives & Integrals. These are broken down into the following sub-components:

- Limits & their properties
- Differentiation & applications
- Integral Calculus
- Transcendental Functions
- Differential Equations
- Applications of Integration

Classroom Expectations – Both you and I will abide by these policies as well as those established by Mansfield Independent School District and Frontier High School.
- **Respect**
  - for yourself – come to class prepared with your materials and assignments; be dressed and groomed so that it will not be necessary during class
  - for others – classmates are learning and I am guiding that learning, so distracting behavior is not acceptable
  - for your environment – no food, drinks, or other pollutants
  - for property – clean up after yourself and be careful with items that are placed in your care
- **Responsibility** – taking care of assignments and other business at appropriate times
- **Reliability** – be present, prepared (by having required materials and student ID on and visible), & punctual

Other General Policies and Procedures will be followed according to the Mansfield ISD Policies indicated in the Student Handbook. Each student will receive a handbook; additionally, a digital copy is located on the school website.

Electronics – All electronics, including but not limited to cell phones, laptops, and mp3 players will ONLY be utilized when deemed appropriate by myself. Penalties for violating this policy might include taking the item up or a referral. Confiscated items will incur a $15 fine per district policy.

Tutorials – *It is your responsibility to let me know that you are in need of help*. Because math classes are cumulative in nature, it is very important to not fall behind!! Tutorial times will be Monday & Thursday afternoons from 2:45 – 3:15. If those days do not work with your schedule, you may also visit Mr. Mullins after verifying his availability.

Extra Credit – Students may earn extra credit by attending tutorials or participating in select classroom activities.

Required Materials
- iPad
- pencils (required for all quizzes & tests)
- highlighter(s)
- 1 composition notebook for CAListhenics

- binder for notes
- 1 box of tissues –OR- 4-pack of AAA batteries
- other materials may be required throughout the year

Assessment Policy - Each six weeks will be evaluated as follows:

                30% - Quizzes   70% - Tests

The semester grade will be calculated as follows:

    (1st 6-wks · 26.6%) + (2nd 6-wks · 26.6%) + (3rd 6-wks · 26.6%) + (Semester Exam · 20%) = Semester Grade

Late work is not accepted at any time for this course. Quizzes and tests will be given at regular intervals and with advanced notice. Retakes of tests are allowed for a maximum grade of 70 and must be completed within two weeks of the original assessment date. *Prior to retaking a test, you must come to a tutorial session to go over the failed test.*

Absences/Tardies – See student handbook for district attendance policies. It is YOUR responsibility to get any missed information, which includes but is not limited to warm-ups, notes, and assignments. You are allowed 4 tardies per semester. On the 5th tardy, an office referral will be issued. If you are absent the day homework is due, it is due upon your return. If you miss a test or quiz, you will have one calendar week from the date the assessment was administered to make it up; otherwise, it will remain a zero. **Being absent on a review day does not entitle you miss the test or quiz the following class.** It is imperative you attend tutorials if you are absent!

Course Schedule – A six-weeks calendar is attached for the 1st six weeks and will be posted on the class website for following six-weeks. Please remember, this is a living document and is subject to modification.

Additional Resources – In addition to the excellent textbook website, the following websites offer great support.
                  https://www.getafive.com   http://www.khanacademy.org

Integrity – Student Handbook page 37 discusses district policy on academic dishonesty. There will be no tolerance.

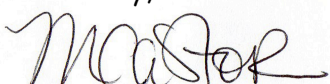**PARENTS,** read the information in this letter carefully. **Please follow the link http://goo.gl/vrju0R or scan the QR code below to complete a GoogleDoc information sheet by Monday, September 9, 2014. Your response will count as ½ of your student's first daily grade.** *I will reply to each submission.* *If you do not receive a reply, please re-submit!*

STUDENTS, read the information in this letter carefully. **Please follow the link http://goo.gl/G8aCBz or scan the QR code to complete a GoogleDoc information sheet by Friday, August 29, 2014. Your response will count as ½ of your first daily grade.** *I will reply to each submission.* *If you do not receive a reply, please re-submit!*

I look forward to hearing from each of you! Let's make it a wonderful year!!!

Sincerely,

Mikki Castor