Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child has enrolled in Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, or Geometry Honors for the 2011-2012 school year. All three of these courses use a graphing calculator as a tool to investigate the abstract concepts explored in Algebra and beyond. Graphing calculators are expensive, but your child will be able to use their graphing calculator throughout their mathematics courses in high school, on the SATs, and for many college classes.

Luther Jackson has a very limited number of calculators that we can check out to students to use at home, so we strongly encourage you to purchase a graphing calculator over the summer. We recommend that you purchase a **TI-84+ Silver Edition** for your child to use next year. These calculators cost approximately $130, but they usually go on sale in July for $80 - $90 at Office Depot, Staples, Walmart, Target, etc. If you check the Texas Instruments website in early July, you can often find a coupon that will allow you to purchase a calculator at half-price. You might also check alternative sources such as eBay, Craigslist, etc.

Purchasing a graphing calculator is **not** required for your child to take Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, or Geometry Honors. However, many homework assignments will be very difficult for your child to complete if (s)he does not have a graphing calculator at home. In addition, graphing calculators are used on the SOL for Algebra I and Geometry, and students who are not familiar with the graphing calculator are at a disadvantage on the test.

You will receive a letter regarding graphing calculators at the beginning of the school year. However, due to the cost of the graphing calculators, we wanted to provide you with this information before the summer begins.

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s math teacher before school ends. If you have questions over the summer, you can contact Susan Tyson in the main office, Julie Roseneu in Guidance, or the mathematics department chair, Andy Austin at [andrea.austin@fcps.edu](mailto:andrea.austin@fcps.edu).

Thank you,

Louise Porter