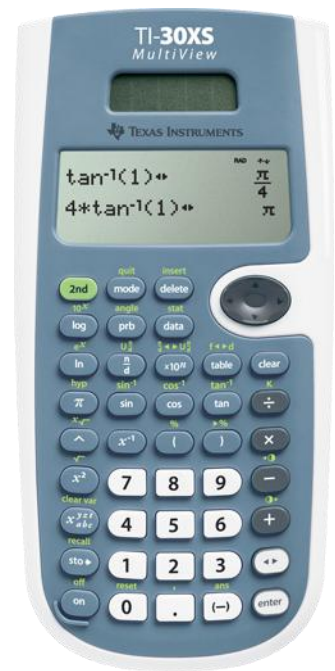


Cost Cutting Technology Shift

The TCS Math Department is shifting its hand-held technology selections for students. To complement and encourage the use of laptops in class and to offer a cost-cutting option, the Math Department is now asking secondary students taking classes *Algebra I and above* to come prepared with a TI30XS MultiView calculator shown at right. This calculator offers a few features over the scientific calculator previously used and will still be in a roughly \$15-\$18 price range depending on how and where you shop. (Previously students used a TI-30X IIS scientific calculator for classes up through Geometry and transitioned to the TI-84 Plus hand-held graphing calculator for classes above that level. They are both good calculators, but the TI-84+ is an expensive option considering students are now encouraged to use a laptop in classrooms.) Students will not be restricted from use of the TI-84 Plus calculator, but will no longer be **required** to purchase it, and there are frequently tests and exercises in the TCS mathematics classroom on which graphing calculators are not allowed. (Students in grades 6 through 8 will be allowed to use calculators only as prescribed by the instructors in the classes they attend.) To replace the graphing function on the TI-84 Plus Silver Edition, students will be encouraged to use a free online graphing calculator application on their laptops...we are currently exploring the Desmos Graphing Calculator online, but will not necessarily restrict our work to this.



The availability of free graphing calculators online (in our wifi-enabled classrooms) offers the chance for parents to streamline their investing by taking the roughly \$100 savings (in not being required to use a TI-84 Plus calculator) and invest it in the laptop their students will find useful on a broader scale. Students can use the TI30XS MultiView scientific calculator all the way through high school in tandem with online graphing calculators to enhance their exploration of mathematics.