



# SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for Science & Mathematics

## GSSM Class of 2019 New Student Packet

### Mathematics Placement Assessment

- ✓ **Why?** This placement assessment is not used for admission. It is a measurement of your mathematical ability used by the mathematics department to determine **the best math course** for you to take in the fall.
- ✓ **Who?** **All incoming students** are required to take the Mathematics Placement Assessment.
- ✓ **What?** We give **two versions of the assessment**. Assessment A for those who have **not yet taken calculus**, and Assessment B for those who **have taken calculus**. In both assessments, students will have 75 minutes to solve mathematical problems.
- ✓ **Accommodations?** If you receive academic accommodations for testing, let Mr. Dorsel, Vice President for Academic Affairs, know via email [dorsel@gssm.k12.sc.us](mailto:dorsel@gssm.k12.sc.us) or phone, 843-857-4675.
- ✓ **When? Where?** During the morning of **Saturday, May 13**, during your orientation visit to GSSM.
- ✓ **Bring?** **Two sharpened pencils with erasers** to the orientation. See note about calculators below.
- ✓ **More Information about math courses?** Detailed information about math courses and the placement process can be found at <http://www.scgssm.org/admissions/academics/course-catalog>.

**Assessment A:** For students who have **NOT TAKEN CALCULUS:** The assessment questions are from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and pre-calculus. Topics include fundamentals of mathematical manipulation, polynomials and rational expressions, equations and inequalities, basic analytical geometry, functions and graphing, radical expressions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. **A non-graphing calculator will be provided for you by GSSM for this assessment.**

**Assessment B:** For students who have **TAKEN CALCULUS:** The placement assessment consists of free-response calculus problems. **Bring a graphing calculator** such as TI-83 or TI-84 or a similar graphing calculator but not a CAS equipped calculator.

**Math Course Placement is important:** You should put forth your best effort even if you have not seen the material formally in a previous course.

**Questions?** Feel free to contact Mrs. Bunn at (843) 383-3901 ext. 1116 or e-mail [bunn@gssm.k12.sc.us](mailto:bunn@gssm.k12.sc.us). We are all looking forward to meeting you on May 13. *Practice sites are listed on the back of this page.*

## Sites for calculus readiness preparation

**The Placement test is important. You should prepare for the test by reviewing.** Preparation is especially important if you have not taken a math course this term. Test your skill by working problems from sites shown below, or other math sites such as Kahn Academy.

Some of these sites are strictly assessments while others include discussion of topics as well as questions. Most provide the answers to the questions. If you have taken or are taking Pre-Calculus, you really need to do **at least one** of these sets of problems.

1. California State University at Sacramento, Three levels of problems: Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Calculus Readiness problems and answers  
<https://www.csus.edu/math/courses/studyguide.pdf>
2. University of California, Berkeley, generates an assessment instrument for you to take and grades it  
<https://math.berkeley.edu/courses/choosing/placement-exam> and click on [Generate link to create an exam.](#)
3. University of Massachusetts, Lowell – problems with answers  
[https://www.uml.edu/docs/calc\\_readiness\\_tcm18-59541.pdf](https://www.uml.edu/docs/calc_readiness_tcm18-59541.pdf)
4. Lehigh University questions and answers (form 1)  
<http://www.lehigh.edu/~inportst/channels/fys/cbe/7CRA.pdf>
5. ETown Calculus Readiness 25 problems and answers.  
<http://www.etown.edu/depts/math/files/PracticePreCalculus.pdf>