

GRAPHING CALCULATORS

WHAT IS IT FOR?

A graphing calculator is a handheld device designed to perform mathematical calculations and create visual mathematical models to help the user problem solve. With a graphing calculator, your son or daughter will have a learning tool to use year after year at school, at home, and at college. At East Aurora High School, there are many classes in which students use a graphing calculator: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, College Algebra, Technical Math, Computer Science, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics, Consumer Science, Electronics, and others. While some classrooms have graphing calculators for your child to use, your student will benefit from having their own personal calculator to take from class to class, to use in study hall, to use at home, to use while doing homework on the go, and to use during standardized testing such as the SAT, ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, Praxis, and IB exams.

BRANDS

Most hand held calculators are made by Texas Instruments (TI), Casio, and Hewlett-Packard (HP). Typically, instructors at the high school and college level recommend Texas Instruments because they are the most widely used in schools and because the instructors typically know how to use those models the best. Overall, any graphing utility will work for school as long as your child is willing to learn how the device works.

NEW / USED / RENT / BORROW

Graphing calculators can be bought new or used, can be borrowed from family, friends, or schools, and can even be rented. Before spending any money, take the time to look at your options. Talk to other people about their experiences and opinions. Ask family and friends if they have a spare calculator available, especially if they have a student who has already graduated high school. Used calculators can be found on Ebay, Amazon, and at local stores that sell used electronics. Many people try to sell them after graduating high school and college in May and June if you are looking for a good deal to save money. Used calculators usually work like new and can be about half the cost of buying a new calculator. Do not buy a yellow calculator because these can only be owned by schools and are probably stolen property. If the cost is still too high, there are some graphing calculator websites and mobile apps that can be used for a few dollars or even free. The drawback is that mobile apps can not be used during tests. While these devices can cost a lot, it is an investment that can be passed down to siblings, other family members, and then sold to a future student to recover some of the original cost. Many families save up and give this to their child as a birthday or holiday gift.

OPTIONS

While having your own calculator is optional at East Aurora High School, if success is your goal, then having access to this tool and gaining familiarity with its uses is absolutely essential for success. The following options are graphing calculators used by students and teachers at East Aurora High School. **The current most popular option is the TI-84 Plus CE.** These are not the only types of calculators that can be used. Prices below are estimates for reference. Any questions about these graphing calculators or other graphing calculators should be directed to your child's teachers.

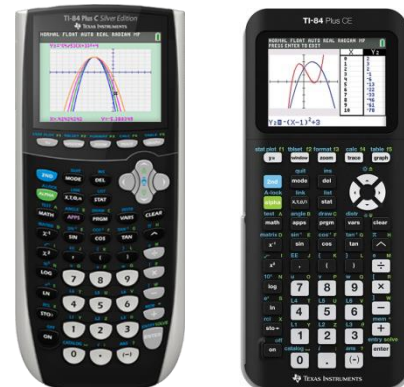
TI-84 Plus C SE / TI-84 Plus CE (most popular)

Price: \$125

Recommended for: all high school and college math and science courses

Standardized testing: Allowed on SAT, ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, Praxis, and IB

Notes: This device uses an internal battery charged through USB. Device has a color back lit screen. This calculator contains features easy to use for beginner level courses and for upper level courses in high school and college. This is the most popular graphing calculator used by students at East Aurora High School.



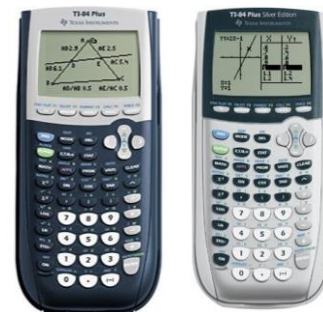
TI-84 Plus / TI-84 Plus SE

Price: \$105

Recommended for: all high school math and science courses

Standardized testing: Allowed on SAT, ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, Praxis, and IB

Notes: This device requires 4 AAA batteries. Screen is black and white only. Screen is not back lit. Some features for pre-calculus, calculus, statistics, and college algebra can be difficult to use on this calculator.



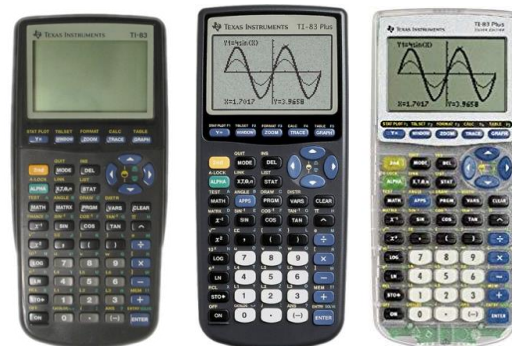
TI-83 / TI-83 Plus / TI-83 Plus SE

Price: \$90

Recommended for: beginner level high school math and science courses

Standardized testing: Allowed on SAT, ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, Praxis, and IB

Notes: This device requires 4 AAA batteries. Screen is black and white only. Screen is not back lit. Some features useful for pre-calculus, calculus, statistics, and college algebra do not exist on this calculator.



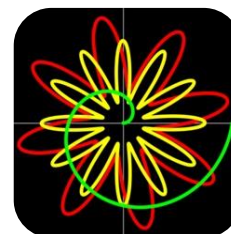
GraphNCalc83

Price: \$6

Recommended for: homework for all high school math and science courses

Standardized testing: Not allowed

Notes: Only works on Apple mobile devices. Looks and works similar to the TI-83 and TI-84 calculators. Works without internet.



Graphing Calculator X84

Price: Free

Recommended for: homework for all high school math and science courses

Standardized testing: Not allowed

Notes: Only works on Apple mobile devices. Looks and works similar to the TI-83 and TI-84 calculators. Works without internet. Some features useful for pre-calculus, calculus, statistics, and college algebra do not exist on this calculator.



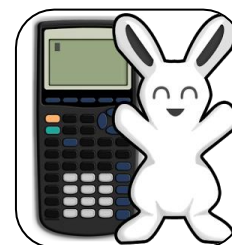
Wabbitemu

Price: Free

Recommended for: homework for all high school math and science courses

Standardized testing: Not allowed

Notes: Only works on Android mobile devices. Requires the TI-84 Plus C SE ROM file. Works without internet.



Desmos

Price: Free

Recommended for: homework for all high school math and science courses

Standardized testing: Not allowed

Notes: Works in a computer browser with internet (www.desmos.com) or as an app for Apple and Android mobile devices with or without internet.

