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### **Selecting Your Math Course:**

The information below applies primarily to students currently enrolled in or who have completed Math 10 Foundations and Pre-Calculus, and are trying to choose their course for next year. The Math department has noticed that many students end up in courses that are not necessarily a great fit for them in their Grade 11 year. Therefore, we have provided some scenarios below that should help students better select a math course that will lead to a higher level of success.

The first step students should take when choosing a course for next year is to think about careers that they are interested in. Once they have chosen their (current) career of choice, they should go to the appropriate Post-Secondary website to see what Math course is recommended for entry into the program they are interested in, and the minimum grade required. If Pre-Calculus 11 (or 12) is the required prerequisite, and the grade required is about what a student has achieved in grade 10, then success in the next course is likely.

However, if Pre-Calculus 11 (or 12) is required, and the grade necessary is above what was achieved in Math 10, then the student might want to consider taking Foundations 11 rather than Pre-Calculus. The reasons for this are as follows: rarely do students make drastic improvements to their overall letter grade as they move from grade 10 math to grade 11 math. Therefore, it is unlikely that they will meet the minimum grade required. Students who take the Foundations 10 course in Semester 1 and then the Pre-Calculus 11 course in semester 2 generally find a much higher level of success in Pre-Calculus 11 than those that do not have the Foundations course. The Foundations course is an acceptable course for entry into most universities. However, if Pre-Calculus is required for the department of interest, students will have to apply into that department after 1 year of university, rather than being accepted directly into the department based on their high school results.

Many students in Grade 10 change their career choice multiple times before they graduate. Since both Foundations and Pre-Calculus are University acceptable courses, they should probably choose the course that will lead to their highest level of success. In other words, it is better to achieve a C+ in Foundations rather than a C- in Pre-Calculus.

If a student is unsure about what career to pursue after high school, Pre-Calculus does not necessarily leave more doors open to the student. For those doors to be open, the student must achieve a strong mark in the course (B or better). Therefore, the path that keeps the most doors open is the one where the student can achieve an average or better than average level of success. The Ministry of Education originally planned for 60% of all high school students to take Foundations of Math 11. So we also recommend that students unsure of their future plans take Foundations 11, as this course is best suited to the majority of students.

The Best Math Department has noticed a significant increase in the number of students either failing Pre-Calculus 11 or achieving at the C- level; therefore, we strongly recommend that you consider your child's ability in math when you discuss the course he or she should take for next year. Further to this, the grade 10 teachers will also put a recommended Grade 11 course on their Final Report Card, so parents will be aware of the teacher recommendation as well. Parents who have questions about why a teacher has recommended a specific course should feel free to contact the teacher about this. We want your child to achieve the highest possible understanding in math, and we hope that with better communication and planning we will better serve the students.

Should you want to discuss anything about the math courses that we offer, please give me a call or email.

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