

## **CALCULATORS FOR MATH CLASSES:**

CALCULATORS and their use in the math class room are a dilemma for the math teacher. Every year the calculator is more sophisticated, has more applications, has more display options and handles more math functions. And, students each year can ask their calculator to do more and more of the problems for them, whether they understand the concepts or not. Thus, the dilemma for the teacher: when to allow calculators, and in which classes, and for which functions.

We have not allowed calculators in Pre-Algebra or Saxon Algebra I. Bob Jones Algebra I may purchase the **TI 30X IIS** for restricted use. We are allowing only the **TI 30X IIS** calculator for use in Geometry and Algebra II. Students may not use any other calculator in these classes. This calculator allows them access to trigonometry values and other basic data, without working out the problems completely for them. This calculator sells in the \$15-\$20 range. If students are using a more sophisticated calculator on their homework at home, they may not be learning the math processes thoroughly.

**Graphing Calculators:** A graphing calculator is required for Algebra 3, Trig, Calculus, Physics, and Chemistry. The text books that we use, teach the TI 83 or TI 83+ (the TI 84 TI 84+ is very close). There are some nice models of these calculators. Upper level students often bring other varieties of graphing calculators to class. These calculators will be allowed, but they also will not be taught. If a student is going to use an alternate calculator, then they need to keep the instruction manual, or know how to access it on line, so they can find the buttons and functions on their own personal calculators, that display completely differently from the TI 83.