

## Discrete Math-Overview and Policies 2016-17

Ms. Bell- Room [428-belle@wellesley.ps.org](mailto:428-belle@wellesley.ps.org)

Website: <https://wellesley.instructure.com/>

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*"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."*

— Jane Goodall

**General Topics:** Graph Theory, Applications of Graph Theory (management science decision-making considering traveling street networks, scheduling without conflicts, designing various types of networks, choosing new emergency or service facility locations and more), Surveys and Polling (including special attention to polls for the 2016 Presidential Election and current issues in polling and voting) Language and Fundamentals of Statistics, Combinatorics, Probability, Apportionment, Voting Methods, Power in Voting, Interpreting Graphs, Critical Thinking in Everyday Life, and Review of Logic and Recognizing Fallacies.

**Materials:** You will need pencils, pens (if you like to use them), graph paper, a TI-83 graphing calculator, and a math notebook or binder. If you are using a spiral bound notebook, you will also need folders or pockets for handouts and to keep assessments in. You will have A LOT of handouts! Stay organized. Additionally, everyone must bring in a box of tissues for classroom use by Friday Sept. 9th. Please see me if you are concerned about getting any of the materials mentioned here and we will make it work.

*Note: We do use the textbook but we will also rely heavily on supplementary materials: notes from class, on-line material and handouts. For example, we will study combinatorics, almost exclusively, from non-book materials. For a class following a night when your homework was in the textbook, each group must have 2 books for class use. (Your text must be covered- it keeps them in better condition for longer.)*

### **Grading Breakdown for 1<sup>st</sup> Term\*:**

- A. Class Participation and Group Work - 10%
- B. Homework Checks- 5%
- C. Quizzes (including open and closed notes/book)- 30%
- D. Tests and Project Assessments- 55%

*\*The grading breakdown is subject to change. You would be informed of any change and the reasoning behind it.*

**Unexcused Lates:** If you are late to class without a pass, sit down to work as quickly and quietly as possible. Each unexcused late is recorded and brings down your Class Participation grade. As is WHS policy, 3 lates = 1 cut. Being late is a distraction to the class, a hassle for the teacher, and it will make class more difficult for the late student. Generally it's also disrespectful- please do your best to be on time!

**Unexcused Absences and Cuts:** You will receive a zero for any HW, quiz, in-class assignment or test that you miss due to an Unexcused Absence or a Cut for my class. If you need to talk to me about exceptional cases then do so ASAP. Do the math; zeros hurt your grade a lot. Plus, you'll miss out on good mathematics- come to class! (Please refer to the Student Handbook for more on WHS Attendance Policy.)

**Excused Lates and Absences:** See me outside of class time immediately upon your return to catch up on missed assignments and lessons. And, please get in contact with a classmate for homework, notes, and other information when possible. Any previously assigned work is due on the day you return to school. (Please refer to the Student Handbook for more on WHS Attendance Policy.)

### **Other Classroom Policies:**

1. Extra Help/Open Classroom- You are strongly encouraged to come to room 428 when you have questions
1. Extra Help/Open Classroom/MATH LAB- You are strongly encouraged to come to room 428 when you have questions or just need a place with good thinking air to do some work. And if you need to set a time to discuss something privately, come by and we'll try to set that up. I will be available some days each week from 8-8:30 AM or from 2:35-3:10 PM. After the first week I will post an official Extra Help/Open Classroom availability schedule on the door each week. Use extra help and or the Math Lab for support when you need it. The Math Lab schedule is posted in my room, online and on the math lab door and the lab is located in room 426. THE MATH LAB is a great resource- try it!
2. Food, Drinks, Electronics- Cell phones will be taken to the main office if seen being used in class. Please be courteous and simply keep all electronics turned off. No food in class. You may have drinks in class, but school rules apply. Please help keep our school and classroom clean. And, please use my RECYCLING bins- THANKS!
4. Fire exit/emergency – Please adhere to the designed route and policy when we need to leave the building. In case of emergency, there are emergency #'s posted on the classroom phone.
5. Leaving class- If you must go to the bathroom, sign out on the sign-out sheet. Only one student is allowed out of the classroom at a time unless there is an extenuating circumstance.
6. Refer to the Student Handbook for other general WHS classroom rules.

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**7. Enrich our classroom. You have the power to make our school and this classroom better! Be a positive force. Be respectful of all people and things. Do not get in the way of your own or others opportunities for learning and thinking and having a good day. We are all counting on you! Please. And thank you in advance.**

**Our Discrete Math Class Website- CANVAS:**

Go to your Canvas page and login- <https://wellesley.instructure.com/>  
Click on Discrete Math.

- I will always post quiz and test dates on the site.
- I will post links to videos and articles that relate to the material we are covering.
- I will post Smart Board slides from class only when I see fit. **Come to class-** looking at the slides on your own is not the same as participating and learning in class!
- I will post some online discussion questions on the site periodically that you will need to post a response to. This way you have time to think before answering “big questions” and we will have a chance to hear from everyone, which is usually not possible during class time.

**Test/Quiz Notes:**

-Test dates will be announced at least a week in advance and there will be 2 tests (or projects which carry a test weight) given each term. Longer quizzes will be announced 2-3 classes before the quiz but short open note quizzes may be unannounced.

-There are NO make-up/re-take tests or quizzes for students whose absence from class is unexcused. However, I do encourage all students to do test/quiz corrections.

-If you are excused absent and miss a test or quiz, see or email me the day you return to school to schedule a makeup time to take the test. (As it says in the student handbook, “*A student needs to meet with their teachers immediately upon his/her return to school to schedule makeup work.*”) Even if we do not have class the day you return to school, see or email me the day you are out or the day you return. I will need you to make up the test/quiz within 2 school days of your return to school unless you have missed more than 1 class leading up to the assessment. Makeups can be scheduled to start anytime between 7:35 and 2:45 on most school days but I cannot excuse you from another class to make up a quiz or test.

***“The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas.”***

-Linus Pauling