Welcome to the AP* Calculus AB summer institute! I’m looking forward to sharing some of my ideas and experiences with each of you. I currently teach at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, having retired from Rosemount High School where I taught both AB and BC Calculus for twenty plus years. I have been a Reader for AP* Calculus since 1998, continuing with the program as a Table leader and Question leader. Through my experiences as a Reader, Table Leader and Question leader I’ve gained a lot of knowledge, not only about Calculus, but also how to prepare students, and the “flavor” of the problems to expect on the examination.

This summer institute is designed for teachers interested in incorporating graphing calculators and a variety of other activities into an AP* Calculus AB curriculum. We will utilize the graphing calculator to investigate limits, derivatives, integrals, differential equations, and slope fields. Come and experience activities that will help lead your students to grasp the fundamental ideas and applications of calculus. Wherever possible we will employ a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts and problems being expressed geometrically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. You’ll learn to use your calculator to reinforce the relationships among the multiple representations of functions, to discover new ideas, and to confirm written work.

Throughout the week you’ll gain a clear understanding of the goals of AP* Calculus, which will have an impact on how you teach the course. With a clear understanding of these goals, you will be able to better prepare your students for the AP* examination.

Participants will experience individual and group activities that will help students discover new ideas or reinforce concepts already learned. There will also be time set aside for each participant to share a favorite activities or lessons. This way, you will have numerous new ideas and techniques to employ into your classroom.

Participants will also experience the grading or reading process for the free response questions. You’ll learn how standards are set, explained, and applied to recent AP questions. We will look at the questions from the exam, and discuss common student mistakes and points that teachers should be emphasizing.

If time permits and there is an interest from the group, I’d be happy to discuss some BC topics in case you are considering offering the BC course in the future.

In addition to your graphing calculator, please bring a flash drive (to get electronic copies of handouts and activities from other participants), at least one favorite activity or lesson to share with the group. It may also be helpful to bring a copy of the textbook you will be using. If you have a specific need or issue that you would like me to cover, feel free to email me. I’ll do my best to meet your needs.

Sometime before the workshop, in your busy schedule, please take the time to view "Course Overview Modules for AP Calculus Teachers" found on the AP Central website.

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