



The New York City Department of Education

DIRECTOR
Steve Stoll

9-22-03

Special Calculator Needed for Chemistry

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to inform you that your child, as are all students at Beacon, is required to have a scientific calculator in order to complete their studies in Chemistry at Beacon.

The teachers at Beacon recognize this may place an unexpected hardship on some parents, and if the reason is significant, Beacon will do all that we can to provide a calculator to your student. However, it is in our experience that the calculators that teachers have purchased on their own have gone missing at the end of the year, and that without this formal request for a calculator, many students will not come prepared to class. Please feel free to contact me regarding any special circumstances.

It is required that students come to chemistry prepared and with a scientific calculator that is able to perform logarithmic functions. As an educator, we are most helpful with one outstanding calculator model, and both the math and chemistry departments use this inexpensive calculator. If your student is comfortable using a different scientific calculator *that is able to perform logarithmic functions and scientific notation, and your student knows how to do so*, these other calculators are also acceptable.

The calculator that we recommend is the **Texas Instruments TI 30 X IIS two-line Solar Scientific Calculator**. The best “deal” I can find for purchasing this calculator is through Staples.com.

I will be placing a Staples order this week, (staples.com) and any student that gives me a check or cash for **\$13.94** will receive this calculator from me, if the student wishes to avoid “going out” and purchasing it. Monies must be received by this Thursday, and the calculators are expected to arrive next Monday. If several students request the calculator, I will order sooner (since next day shipping is free for each \$50 order). I will not make a profit on any purchase, and of course, if you prefer, you may order or buy this calculator or (much less preferred) a similar calculator through Staples or elsewhere.

I make this effort with the calculators in order to benefit all students at Beacon. I expect these recommendations to yield at least one extra day of learning for the students during the Chemistry curricula, and this particular calculator is an outstanding purchase that will help your student in their mathematics curricula at Beacon, as well as college curricula. This calculator is very likely to help your student perform better in chemistry. This is a very worthwhile investment for you to make for your child.

Thank you very much for providing your student with a scientific calculator. *Please sign and return the form below.*

Sincerely,

Reid Schwebach

<<Detach this portion of letter>>

(circle one) **I am** <or> **I am not** able to provide my child with a scientific calculator.

(fill in blanks below:) Are you sending me money for a calculator? (Circle one:) **Yes** **No**

Parent signature: _____ Parent name: _____ Student name: _____

Comments: _____