

Graphing Calculator Information

St. Xavier students are required to have a TI-84 graphing calculator. There are currently four versions of the TI-84 graphing calculators. Students may have any of the four versions available. There is information below to help you decipher the different capabilities of the four versions of TI-84's. All of them meet the needs of the student in the classroom and all of them can be used on the PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP tests.

Note: TI-Nspires and TI-89's are not permitted. A salesperson may try convincing you to purchase the TI-Nspire by telling you there is a face plate that makes it operate like the TI-84. While this is true, we still do not allow them due to some of their extended capabilities.

The Mathematics Department offers FREE name engraving on calculators at school. Engraving will be available in the cafeteria during the first few days of classes or in the Math Office throughout the year. Engraving is not available during freshmen orientation days. We *strongly* recommend name engraving so if a calculator is misplaced it is easily identifiable and can be returned to its owner quickly.

What do I need to know if I am buying a new calculator?

The best prices tend to be available during the Back-to School sales in August. The differences in the models listed below will not matter for what we do in the classroom. All will work equally well and all have plenty of memory for our classroom needs. All TI-84's come with two cables. One is a Link Cable which allows information to be transmitted from one calculator to another. The other is a USB cable (called a TI-Connectivity cable) which links the calculator to a computer so apps can be downloaded and with some models for recharging purposes. All TI-84's come with some pre-loaded apps and a limited one year warranty. Below is a quick comparison between the three versions of the TI-84. This information is pulled directly from Texas Instrument's website.

TI-84 Plus: (This is the bare bones model at this point. Works just fine for our purposes. May need to find on E-Bay or the like to purchase. Not available in most stores at this point.)

- Uses 4 AAA alkaline batteries

TI-84 Plus Silver Edition: (approximately \$120)

- Uses 4 AAA alkaline batteries
- Has more memory than the TI-84 Plus but the difference is unnoticeable for what we use in the classroom.

TI-84 Plus CE: (Color screen - approximately \$150)

- Color screen with high resolution and back-lit display
- Thinner, lighter version of the TI-84 Plus. Comes in many colors.
- Rechargeable battery – recharges with a USB cord or a wall plug.

For more details on the comparison and which apps come preloaded on each you can access TI's website at www.education.ti.com and go to the "products" tab, choose "graphing calculators" then select the appropriate model.

You may also contact Dan Lynch, Mathematics Department Head, with any further questions at 761-7815 ext. 582 or dlynch@stxavier.org.