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Verona Public Schools

Nicole Santora, Ed.D. *Supervisor of Mathematics and Science*

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Dear Parent /Guardian:

The Verona Math Department uses the TI-*N*spire calculator in all levels of the Algebra 1 curriculum. We are recommending that students purchase their own calculators. To assist in this purchase, the Verona Math Department has secured a deal with EAI Education to purchase these calculators at a reduced price. These calculators can also be purchased at the majority of electronics retail stores. If you choose to purchase the calculator through the Verona Mathematics Department, please refer to the attached order form or you can order on line by using the following link Order Form.

The TI-*N*spire was chosen due to its versatility and applicability to all math subjects. Thus, students will use this calculator for all subsequent math courses. The TI-*N*spire calculator is permitted for use on all state and national assessments (HSPA, SAT, PSAT, ACT, Advanced Placement). Although a limited number of calculators will be made available, we encourage each student to have his or her own personal calculator due to the following benefits:

• With a personal calculator, your child will be able to continue exploring concepts after class, at his or her own pace, and to complete homework utilizing the methods taught in class.
• A calculator is a more affordable and convenient form of technology than a personal computer. A calculator is portable, so your child can have it available anytime, anywhere he or she needs it.
• Like a personal computer, TI calculators with Flash technology are upgradeable, providing long-term value and extending your investment over all of your child's mathematics courses.
• Many standardized and college admissions tests approve the use of calculators, including most TI graphing calculators. In fact, several college placement tests require the use of a graphing calculator.

The Verona School District provides a comprehensive and rigorous mathematics program that both meets and exceeds the Common Core Standards. A balanced program consists of sound teaching practices that incorporate technology effectively, an essential ingredient in the 21st century classroom. It aids students in math understanding and prepares them for a technological future. We believe calculator use is an integral component of any instructional math program yet it does not replace the need to learn basic facts, perform mental computation, and develop

conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills. These tools give students a way to explore ideas and visualize concepts in greater depth than would otherwise be possible. Used appropriately, graphing technology can help lead to better comprehension of concepts and their real-world applications.

In this budget-conscious time, we are asking all students to help us participate in the Texas Instruments Technology Reward Program. Each retail package comes with a 50-point reward symbol that can only be redeemed by schools to acquire additional Texas Instruments educational products. These products allow a teacher to enhance their classroom experience in a variety of ways. For instance, the TI Navigator gives a teacher the ability to view all student calculators as they work in the class and poll the students to assess their understanding of specific concepts as they are being taught. Algebra I teachers will be collecting these points during the first week of school. Please do not discard these valuable reward points.

Thank you,

Dr. Nicole Santora

Nicole Santora, Ed.D.

Supervisor of Math and Science K-12

TI-NSpire Order Form

Student's Name:_____

Student's Math Teacher:_____

☐ TI-NSpire CX (Color Version) $128.99

Please return this form with a check to the Verona Public School District to your child's mathematics teacher or to the following address:

Verona Board of Education
Attn: Dr. Nicole Santora
121 Fairview Ave
Verona, NJ 07044

Please Note: The calculator you purchase will be given to your child by his/her Algebra I teacher in the beginning of the school year. Orders will be placed periodically during the summer. No order will be placed before the check is received.