CALC 1

2024/2025 | TORAH HIGH SCHOOL | KELLY SPOON

WELCOME!

If you've made it here, you (or your child) must be signed up for Calculus 1 with me at Torah High! I run them all fairly similarly, so you'll find some general information here and there are pages for the course specifics.

This will be my seventh year teaching at Torah High, but my first year teaching Calc 1. I've previously taught AP Stats, AP Calc BC, Algebra 1, and Precalculus. I also teach at San Diego Mesa College where I'm a tenured professor of Mathematics. I've recently put a ton of energy into teaching Calculus - writing a blog series called Adventures in Corequisite STEM Calculus for the California Acceleration Project and doing a ton of workshops for faculty. Here are a few of my upcoming presentations:

- Lessons Learned Teaching Corequisite Calculus - a workshop for El Camino College on 8/30
- A Showcase of STEM Calculus with Corequisite Support Across Three Colleges - a webinar for the California Acceleration Project on 8/6
- Bridging the Gap: Effective Teaching Practices for Addressing Missing Prerequisite Knowledge in Community College Calculus - a breakout session at the Math for Careers Summit on 8/12
- Equitable Placement and Completion (AB 1705): Students with Disabilities - a webinar for the California State Chancellor's Office on 8/12

Suffice it to say, you are in good hands!

Me with the boys - Beckett (human) and Jonas (cat).

When I'm not teaching (or thinking about teaching), here are some of the things I do for fun.

Speed Jigsaw Puzzling - No joke. My friend got me into it and we compete each month at events hosted by Pacific Puzzlers. The events are always at breweries, so I get to combine my love of puzzles, beer, and competition into a single night of ridiculousness. At the risk of you losing all respect for me before our class even starts, I've uploaded one of my puzzling time lapse videos for the USAJPA Speed Run to the left. 🧩

Fantasy / SciFi - I'm a giant nerd, obviously since I'm a math professor who speed puzzles for fun, but I also LOVE sci-fi and fantasy books. I'm currently reading The World We Make by N.K. Jemisin.

Soccer - I try to play as much (free) soccer as possible. You'll probably find me subbing on an indoor field most nights of the week. I'm also coaching my son's soccer team for the second time this Fall.

Being Active - In addition to soccer, I try to be as active as possible. I love running, hiking, and am oddly motivated by obtaining Peloton badges.
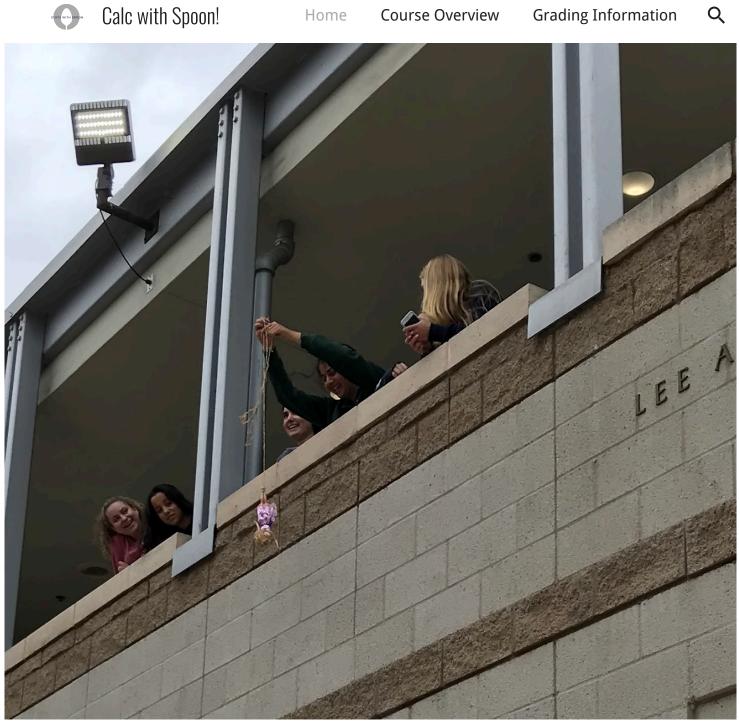
MY COMMITMENT TO US

differently and at different paces. I practice a "whole learner" approach to instruction. This means that all learners in our classroom (myself included) are not just students/instructors, but people with outside lives that will both inform and possibly sometimes interfere with this class. As such, the course policies below offer flexibility, but also ask for accountability. Both are integral to creating a productive learning experience for our entire classroom community.

- Suggested 'best by' dates - nearly **ALL** assignments can be submitted late, if that is necessary... I will reach out before items are due (and after) to try to support you.
- Opportunities to show growth - **ALL** assignments can be revised and resubmitted. Learning is a process and I want to help you on that journey.

Go learn more about our course [here!](#)

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One of the activities from the 2019/2020 AP Stats class. Right before Shoshana's phone also did the drop, but without a bungee.

Hanging with some of my besties and a ton of board games at an annual conference for teaching math at the two year colleges.

Some pictures with my puzzling team 'Puzzling Past Our Bedtime' - you may recognize Professor Abbiate.

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT AT KSPOON@SDCCD.EDU

I check email every morning and try to clear my inbox. If you haven't heard back from me within 24 hours, don't hesitate to resend to put yourself back at the top of my stack!