Hello!

I hope you are ready for the challenge of taking Beginning Algebra Math 254 Online. There is a great deal of individual time and dedication it takes to successfully complete an online math class. Make sure to read the PDF I have posted on my website titled "Am I Ready for an Online Math Course?" to make sure you know what to expect. I am looking forward to meeting you at the mandatory orientation on Saturday, August 30 from 1:00 - 2:30pm in Watsonville WatA360. This orientation is mandatory. If you cannot make it, you will be dropped from the course UNLESS you get yourself registered (you need to get the CourseID from me) and complete the Orientation Assignment (link on my website http://cabrillo.edu/~stran) and email it to me by Orientation Day Aug 30th.

If you plan on dropping the course, please do so ASAP so that others can register.

By the time of the above orientation, please:

* Download the ORIENTATION PACKET from my website http://cabrillo.edu/~stran and bring it to orientation on Aug 30th. **Note: This packet is just a quick overview...the real details and innerworkings of the MyLab website will be demonstrated at orientation.**

* Have access to a computer that is ready to use for the entire semester. Figure out all of your computer issues before the orientation. It is crucial that you don’t have to sort out technology problems once the semester begins—there is just too much other stuff to do!

* Have a current valid email account that you plan to check daily. This should be your own email account—not one that is shared with someone else. If you don’t have one now, create one as soon as possible. There are many sites that offer free web-based email accounts.

* Visit my website http://cabrillo.edu/~stran and view some information about this course, such as the syllabus and pacing schedule.

* Have a MyMathLab packet. Do not open this packet unless you are sure you are going to take the course – it is non-refundable if opened! Read the “Am I Ready for an Online Math Course?” file located on my website.

  **We DO NOT use Blackboard. We use the MyMathLab (MyLab) website and it is mandatory that you have access to this website. You can get access to this website by doing ONE of the following:**
1. Purchase access to the site directly from the MyLab folks. Textbook does not need to be purchased since it is available as an ebook through website, as is the Student Solutions Manual.

or

2. Purchase an access code at the Cabrillo Bookstore. Cost is higher since the bookstore marks up the price to cover its costs. Look for “MyMathLab Student Access Kit”. This is a small thin packet that has the access code needed inside of it. Textbook does not need to be purchased since it is available as an ebook through website, as is the Student Solutions Manual.

or

3. Purchase the textbook with the access code at the Bookstore. (The MML stands for MyMathLab.) You will have both a hardcopy version of the book (easier to read; portable) AND the ebook and Student Solutions Manual through the website. (also listed as available ‘used’; not sure if it is really a valid option.) Note: This is an option, however the hardcopy of the book is NOT required.

or

4. Some students have purchased the MyMathLab access code kit online at a cheaper price, but please make sure that the access code has not been used yet. You can find the ISBN in the Cabrillo Bookstore website. (Please note that MyMathLab is not the same as MathXL.)

If you do not have the money right now, TEMPORARY access for 14 days is available.

Your first online homework assignment is due Thursday Sept 4, 2014. Since you can get temporary access to the MyLab site, lack of money is NOT a reason to get behind.

Book List:

Mandatory: online access for the course website and MyMathLab. This can be purchased at the bookstore or at www.pearsonmylabandandmastering.com (you will need the course ID to register for my class - I will give this out at orientation). If you buy it at the bookstore, don’t open it unless you are sure you are taking the course - it is not returnable!

Optional: Basic College Mathematics, by Martin-Gay, 4th ed

See you at orientation!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Tran
Mathematics Instructor
Cabrillo College