

# Mathematics Rocks!

As the school year winds down, I thought I would report on what is going on in Room 208 at the High School.

Algebra II traded in their text for Trigonometry books in late February. They had some initial growing pains but the classes are adjusting well. They are beginning to master the Trig ratios and their uses with the right triangle. Next week we will begin a unit on Angular and Linear Velocity. It is one of the more difficult units. So we will be doing a lab outside to help the concepts set into our brains. We will be rolling different sized balls, timing them and calculating speed and radii. It will be fun! I hope the weather holds out.

Pre-Calculus is studying one of my favorite units right now: Conic Sections! We just finished up Ellipses. While studying ellipses we discussed eccentricity. This concept looks at how close to a circle an ellipse really is. We will be doing a lab on eccentricity. Of course, this lab will be outside also. Then we are on to Hyperbolas! Fun stuff!

Calculus is having an extremely strong finish this year. We are right on track even with the heavy winter. We are into Calc II material and enjoying every minute of it. The integration problems that we are working on are challenging. Both classes are going to help me with some videoing of my teaching for my National Boards and I really appreciate it.

In Robotics, we finished up our video projects. I plan to get them uploaded to the internet a.s.a.p. Most were very entertaining. We have had some rough starts with the Web Design due to the older and failing equipment. Geoff Long and Kim Sheese, district's computer tech squad, have been extremely helpful. We are beginning our designs and initial code instruction.

Don't forget to check out the school website: [www.aledoschools.org](http://www.aledoschools.org) and the Math Department's page!

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