



Dear 9th Grade Students, Parents and Guardians,

Geometry will be the first main lesson block of the year for the ninth grade and there are a few essential tools that I would like to highlight out of the regular supply list. Since part of the work will involve precise drafting, some of the items are quite specific.

Pencils – #2 pencils

Recommendations:

Wood pencils: a couple of good wood #2 pencils (e.g. Ticonderoga) is a good first choice. They are cheap, fit easily into the compass and can be sharpened to a very fine point.

Mechanical: conventional mechanical pencils with a 0.5 mm lead are OK, but not a requirement.

Pencil sharpener – there will be a sharpener in the room, but having your own is helpful.

Eraser – white vinyl (non-abrasive)

Any white colored eraser is probably fine. (Staedtler Mars plastic eraser is one commonly available example). Avoid the pink erasers (such as the Pink Pearl) which tend to have fine abrasives which will rough up the paper.

Pens - technical drawing pens

color: black. (Optionally, also red and blue 03 for highlighting.)

size: 03, 05 and 08. (Optionally, also 01 for very fine work.)

Recommendations: Pigma Micron pens are strongly recommended; we have had the best experience with them. There are some other makes that can also work well including Koh-I-Noor, Staedtler and Rotring, but make sure that the ink is waterproof and that you can easily get replacements/refills.

Ruler - 2x18 inch transparent “graph” ruler

Recommendations: Rulers with a metric scale on one edge are OK, but the simple rulers with the imperial (inch) only markings are easier to work with. These will also serve as straight edges, so check that the edges have no dips or notches.

Drawing Compass - Circle Master compass

There are few, if any good substitutes for this basic compass which is both simple and effective, accepting a wide range of pencils and pens.

Note: If happen to have a professional drafting compass, it would be OK for pencil work but it probably won't be able to accept the technical pens. If you have a drafting set which includes the old style spring blade ruling pens, they can work extremely well, but you must also be prepared to accept the challenge of mastering them!

All of these items are available at our school store Turose and most of the items are also readily available in art or office supply stores. If you are coming up from the 8th grade at Hawthorne Valley you probably already have many of these things in your kit. However, do take them out and check that they are still working and in good shape. Getting backup pens won't hurt either.

If you have any questions regarding these tools or anything else related to the class, you can reach me at amadey@hawthornevalleyschool.org or at home in the evenings at 518 851-2259.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Abe Madey