

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS
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Hopatcong, NJ - AP Calculus “Lab” Equals Success

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces -

Every week something special takes place within the halls of Hopatcong High School. Mr. Mike Landshof, the AP Calculus teacher, uses his duty and lunch periods to conduct his version of an AP Calculus “lab”. The “lab” acts as an extra period per week to provide any extra help with specific topics. The class meets every Friday during Mr. Landshof’s duty and lunch periods, half of the class at each session. Outside of Friday, if the students have questions and want to take the time to work, they meet up and have a very informal teaching session in the gym hallway. While this is occurring mostly on Fridays, several students will meet up for the “lab” multiple times per week.

When asked how the “lab” concept was conceived, Mr. Landshof replied, “It really came about after I looked at the AP Calculus curriculum last year. I realized that if I had an extra period per week just for utility use for such things as practice questions, tutoring sessions, class notes, AP practice tests, etc. After suggesting the concept to my students last year as an optional component, 100% of the students wanted to add the “lab” portion. It was very well attended too. This year I took a similar approach; however, I used last year’s scores/results as a motivating factor to show them that this is a worthwhile component. It provides them the resources to get help while also providing me with extra time to prepare them more thoroughly for the AP exam.”

While the sessions are there to assist the students with AP Calculus, this teaches them beyond that as well. Mr. Landshof’s efforts show the students that hard work will equal success.



Pictured: Mr. Mike Landshof, Ria Esteves, Tim Lavery, Cassie Colucco

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If you would like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview with Cynthia Randina, Superintendent of Schools, please call JoAnne Murray at 973-398-8801 or email at jmmurray@hopatcongschools.org.