

30 June 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing to share some important information with you regarding technology use in my math classes here at My Fun Science...

**Desmos** is a great online math site, but it is *not* a substitute for a graphing calculator! It is infinitely more “friendly” and doesn't just calculate or graph— it solves problems without requiring your student to demonstrate any understanding at all. More worrisome? Using Desmos will allow your student to fake their understanding of math processes, while neglecting to build the foundational skills they'll need to succeed in future math classes. *We strongly discourage the use of Desmos or similar websites.*

**Smart phone** use is not allowed on standardized tests, *including* the SAT. Did you know that one of the math portions on the SAT assumes that your student both owns and knows how to use a graphing calculator? At My Fun Science, we teach your student calculator skills and work with them to master their Ti-83 or 84... which they can then use on the SAT *and* in their math and science college classes! Is your student taking the ACT? The Accuplacer? Same thing... phones are out, the Ti-83 is in :) *We strongly discourage using a smart phone as a calculator.*

In summary, if your student is using a “homework app”, online tool, or cell phone app instead of a graphing calculator, *they will be at a significant disadvantage* as they move forward academically. It is for this reason that we highly recommend students *not* use these online resources to complete their homework or tests.

We feel it's important for you to be aware of these resources and know why *we discourage their use*. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [bbarnosky@myfunscience.com](mailto:bbarnosky@myfunscience.com).

Sincerely,



Bethany R. Barnosky  
Master Mathematics & Logic Instructor

