Dear Math 365 Student,

Howdy! Welcome to Texas A&M University and to Math 365. I am excited to get to know you and work with you this semester. I love teaching students mathematics. In this guide you will find words of wisdom, your first assignment, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Web Site: Please visit my personal web site: http://www.math.tamu.edu/~sherry.scarborough/. Then follow the links to my Math 365 web page: http://www.math.tamu.edu/~sherry.scarborough/365topics.html. On my web sites you will find my office hours, the Math 365 First Day handout, and many other valuable resources.


Bring to Class: On all class days you will need your notes (found in Math 365 at http://elearning.tamu.edu/), your TAMU student ID, and a #2 pencil with eraser.

Attendance: You are required to attend ALL classes for the full time allotted. It is hard to understand why a student would choose to handicap him or herself by not attending his/her class, especially a math class, for the full amount of time. Plus you could miss an in-class quiz or assignment, and leaving early or arriving late would be disruptive to others in the class. Please realize that I know that sometimes there are extenuating one-time circumstances and we would rather have you part of the time than none of the class time.

No Walks: The mathematics department policy does not allow its instructors to give walks, that is, all classes must be held, unless the university is closed. If I have to miss class for any reason (jury duty, illness, conference, or a meeting), then there will be a qualified substitute instructor.

Homework: It is critical to do the homework exercises (assessments, connections, and reviews) from the text before the next class, and before your quizzes and exams. You will not turn in the text homework. Please bring your class notes with you when you come to my office hours so I can best help you. You cannot afford to get behind in a college math class. After I am set up in class and before class starts or after class, I can answer homework questions or other questions.

Exams: To enter the classroom on exam days, you must have in hand your pencil, eraser, and your TAMU student ID; all other belongings (including all phones, cameras, and electronic devices off, and hats) must be put in your backpack, which you will drop off at the front of the room. Your three regular exams are usually returned by the middle or end of the following week. Your final exam will not be returned and is property of the mathematics department.

What is the best way to study for your regular exams? *Work* all of the appropriate review problems found on http://www.math.tamu.edu/~jwhitfld/365WIR/365WIR.html while making sure that you understand the concepts; please note that due to numerous editions of this text, the chapter and section numbers on this web site do not correspond directly with your text’s chapter and sections. *Work* all of my old posted exams while allowing only 50 minutes to take each exam (allow 90 minutes for summer exams). *Work* the problems in your text and know how to do the problems on your quizzes. Do you understand the concepts well enough to be able to do an exam in the allotted time? “*Work* a problem yourself” is not the same as “watching someone else work the problem” as you will not be graded on how well you watch or listen to someone else working the problem!

What is the best way to study for the final exam? *Work* all of the review problems for the whole semester, while making sure that you understand the concepts. *Work* all of your old exams and quizzes, and for this semester. *Work* all of the problems on the final exam review.
Please use the plethora of resources I have provided on my Math 365 web page. I realize that you can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink. I certainly hope you will ‘drink’ your fill of all the resources I have provided to ensure that you learn the concepts in the course. I sincerely want you to be successful in this course as well as in your upcoming math education courses and in your teaching career!

**In-Class Quizzes:** There will be many in-class quizzes. They will be unannounced. Please do not ask if we are having a quiz (not in class, not in emails); just always expect and be ready for one. This helps you keep up with the material. At the end of the semester two of your lowest quiz grades will be dropped, excluding your note card grade. Expect to get back your graded in-class quizzes within about a week.

**Note Card Assignment:** No later than class time on Wednesday January 30th, your “getting-to-know-you” note card assignment is due. You need to have a picture of yourself that is about 2 inches by 3 inches that you will attach to a colored 4-inch by 6-inch index card, which I will provide. Please attach the picture with staples or with tape (no paperclips). On one side of the index card, you are to put your name, your picture, Math 365-501, spring 2013, phone number, your email, your career plans, your hobbies and interests, something interesting or unusual about yourself, and other things you would like me to know. On the back of the card put 4 of your 365 classmates’ names, emails and phone numbers. Please also record your classmates’ names, emails and phone numbers on the first page of your class notes so you will have this information readily available! I strongly suggest that you form study groups and help each other learn the material. Your note card will not be returned. This note-card assignment is a QUIZ grade and is NOT one of the grades you can drop since it is very important to me to get to know you, however if you follow these directions, it should be an easy 100 assignment-grade. You can earn a 10-point bonus on your note card grade if during my office hours you hand me your completed note card before Wednesday January 30th. Note that there is a maximum grade of 110 possible. Below is the note card grading rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Appropriate colored note card (supplied by me)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Picture of self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Math 365-501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Career plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hobbies/Interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Something interesting or unusual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>What you expect to learn in this class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>What you are afraid of in this class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>On back of note card: names, phones, and emails of 4 other classmates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What should you be doing on a daily basis?** You should be reviewing your notes and working the appropriate homework problems from the textbook on what we have already covered so you will be prepared for the next class and prepared for quizzes and exams!

**Review Problems:** For your own learning benefit, it is strongly suggested that you work the review problems which can be found at [http://www.math.tamu.edu/~jwhitfld/365WIR/365WIR.html](http://www.math.tamu.edu/~jwhitfld/365WIR/365WIR.html).

**Math Frustrations:** Please spend at least 5 minutes on a math problem you do not understand before asking for help. Read your notes and the text on similar problems. However, please do not spend more than 10 minutes on one math problem you do not understand, as I do not want you to get unduly frustrated! If you do not understand a problem, you should come to my office hours or ask questions in class. You can ask me questions before or after class, and can form study groups. See HELP on the first day handout.
Make-ups: No make-up examinations or assignments will be given without a university approved excused absence (See the Texas A&M University Student Rules). An absence for a non-acute medical service or regular check-up does not constitute an excused absence. To be excused you must notify me (acknowledged email or written) prior to date of absence if such notification is feasible. Consistent with Texas A&M Student Rules, students are required to notify their instructor NO LATER than the end of the second school day after missing an examination or assignment. If no such notice is given, the rights to a make-up are forfeited. For injury or illness too severe or contagious to attend class, you must provide confirmation of a visit to a health professional affirming date and time of visit. The Texas A&M University Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class Form will NOT be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to contact his/her instructor to schedule a makeup!

Shhh! Exam and quiz contents are confidential until the exam or quiz is returned. You may not discuss the contents of an exam or quiz until they are returned; to do so violates the Aggie Honor Code. The fact that there is an in-class quiz is confidential.

Goals: In all the work you do for this class, please remember our goals:
   - Develop the particular mathematical knowledge and skills needed for teaching mathematics;
   - Understand some mathematical theory regarding elementary and middle school mathematics;
   - Appropriately represent the mathematics they are expected to teach, in multiple ways;
   - Develop and explain their own mathematical thinking (verbally, pictorially, and in writing); and
   - Analyze and evaluate the mathematical reasoning of others.
   - Note this is a mathematics-content course and NOT a teaching-methods course.

Emails: You need to daily check your TAMU email, as I will often send the class important information. When you email me please put your name, course, and section in the subject line so I can best help you (example: Beth Smith, 365-501). This semester I teach or am involved with Math 141, Math 167, and Math 365 and have around 240 students. Please do NOT send me attachments! Can you imagine if hundreds of my students sent me an attachment? You are important to me, and I would like to give you personal attention so I need to know who you are, what course, and what section so I can best answer your questions! If the answer to your question will benefit most students, please wait until class time to ask it, so I am not answering the same question multiple times in emails!

Following Directions: Since students often miss points or questions by not following directions, I have decided to add this paragraph in hopes that it will help you! If the solution to a problem is a point, then give a point (for example: (2, 3) and not x = 2 or worse 2, 3 with no parentheses). If the answer has units attached to it, give the units (for example: 5 apples and not just 5). If you are asked to give a fraction in lowest terms, give \( \frac{2}{5} \) and not 0.4. It is critical that you show all your work, step by step, since some day you may be explaining these concepts to someone else!

Zebras: If after you give an answer (for example you say the answer is 5), I will then ask "5 zebras???", meaning, "What are the units?" Oh, 5 dollars!
Class Interactions: Since I appreciate having an active class, I encourage you to ask questions, to ‘pause’ me when I get too excited and go too fast, and to ‘rewind’ me when I need to go over a step or problem again. I really appreciate those who ask questions in class, and volunteer answers (right or wrong!) in class. The only dumb questions are the ones you do not ask. Even if you cannot figure out how to ask the question, just tell me to run it by you again. It is my job to be the translator --- to figure out what you are trying to ask, so the more information you give me, the better I can figure out what to say. One of my guidelines in life is to learn from my mistakes. We can learn a lot from wrong answers, so please blurt out answers. I can say and enhance your learning so much more from offered comments and answers, than I can to silence. I also appreciate when you can help your neighbor by pointing out a needed thought in the notes. However, please be courteous and respectful to your classmates and to me by not randomly chatting during class time so I will not need to use the virtual ‘mute’ button!

Investment: Please get your investment (time, and yours or somebody's money) out of this class by attending class, asking questions, participating in class, working the suggested homework problems, attending office hours, and doing the review problems.

Funny Face: Sometimes when I am asked a question, I must have this really funny face (some have said mad or stern face); something like :-|  . This expression means you have asked a really good question, I am trying to figure out how best to answer it, or I am trying to figure out the logistics for what is being asked. I am just concentrating. I am not mad, nor do I think you are stupid --- it would upset me greatly for you to think that I thought that! I have learned to tell my students to not misread my expression. I really care about you and work really hard to best answer your questions. :-)

Personal: I am very happily married to Richard Talbert, a local transactional attorney with a CPA license, and we share four children, ages 24 to 30. Most weeks, Richard and I ballroom dance, either during lessons or at local dances. Some of my favorite dances are tango, samba, rumba, and waltz. I play bridge, 42, and shoot the moon dominoes. Since about 4 summers ago, I have played on my church’s slow-pitch coed softball team; I had never played softball before that! I love to read, can ride a unicycle, can trick and slalom water ski, love flowers and plants, like to hike in forests and in mountains, and like to do the morning Sudoku’s with Richard. Our dog, Bentley, is a whippet. This summer Richard and I went on vacation in South Fork, Colorado.

Enthusiastic: I sincerely look forward to meeting you and I strongly encourage you to visit me during my office hours. You do not need an appointment, nor do you need to email me that you are coming to my office hours. This is your open invitation to come! I just wanted to let you know that I am enthusiastic, energetic, and love teaching students mathematics.

Remember my goal is for you to help you learn the behind-the-scenes mathematical concepts that you will need to be able to teach mathematics!

Here’s to a great semester!
Gig 'Em,
Dr. Sherry Scarborough, ‘80

P.S. What to call me?
Dr. Sherry
Miss Sherry
Sherry
Dr. Scarborough (like Simon and Garfunkel's song "Are you going to Scarborough Fair?")
(NOT "Mrs. Scarborough" as I am Mrs. Talbert since socially I am part of Richard and Sherry Talbert).

P. S. S. The Dr. title means I have earned a Ph.D.