

## Welcome Letter – Spring 2022

This semester is starting out challenging but we can work together to help each other succeed. Know that I am here to help you. Obviously, we are staying at home for some time to help control Covid. But it does *not* mean that we cannot learn and work together.

**Through Monday, January 31, we will be holding class via Zoom. I will set those meetings up and send a link to you soon. The college is planning our return to in-person classes on Tuesday, February 1.**

I will be completing and sending out your syllabus later this week.

Like I said, we will be using Zoom, an app that the college purchased to help us connect “face-to-face”. By no means is it perfect, but it will help us talk in real time. We will meet in Zoom during regularly-scheduled class periods. I will use my time to connect with you and to explore the material. We will spend our time going over the Class Notes I provide and answering your questions (transitioning to in-person classes when LC tells us to).

You need to be aware that I will be recording and posting these Zoom sessions for people who could not attend. To protect your privacy, you are *not* required to let Zoom use your camera (that shows your face and house) or use your own name in Zoom calls. However, if you do use an alias, please tell me through a private chat or email so that I know who is attending. These recordings will be password-protected so get the username and password from me; I will send a separate email. If you choose to show yourself on camera, keep your privacy in mind and consider a plain bookshelf or virtual background as your background.

You should familiarize yourself with my Website [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com). Click on Courses on the left side to get started. I have lots of resources and you should make use of them. I am still working on some parts of the Website. In particular, the syllabi have *not* been updated yet so do not get confused with those old syllabi.

The publisher of our books, Pearson, provides us with the online homework and testing site MyMathLab (MML). Your course fees purchased MML so you do *not* need any more money. There are tons of resources available on MyMathLab. Some homework assignments contain video(s). Each video within a homework assignment will count for one point but also gives you much-needed instruction. You must watch these videos through the Homework screens and not access them elsewhere (like under the Multimedia Library) or you will *not* get credit for watching them. You should take the time to watch them, taking notes on paper as you watch. Honestly, taking notes as you watch often makes them more enjoyable. Also in MML, you will find the Ask My Instructor option under Question Help. This allows you to write me a quick email about a specific problem if you get stuck. It is the most-useful but under-used tool in MML.

My Website ([www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com)) has the course ID and instructions to get your access code for MML to get you started. Follow the MyMathLab link from the home page. In the past, MML access codes were given out in class; this semester you will need to “retrieve” your code from email, BlackBoard, or [brytewave.redshelf.com](http://brytewave.redshelf.com) and then visit [www.mymathlab.com](http://www.mymathlab.com) to redeem it. Feel free to get started now but we officially start Tuesday, or Wednesday depending on your class’ section. (Monday, January 17 is Dr. King Day and there is no school.) I will see you in our first Zoom class then; you’ll get a separate email from me with an invite.

Lastly, I want to stress that I work for you. I am *not* the boss; *you are*. My job is to help you succeed. Ask questions early and often. I am friendly and eager to help. Good luck to you. Look for more emails coming from me.

Stefanie O’Leary-Johnson (Stef OJ)