

Name:
The Basics of Speed, Velocity and Acceleration

Block: $\qquad$
AP Calculus AB

## Prior knowledge about the Cartesian coordinate plane

On the Cartesian coordinate plane, as we read numbers along the horizontal axis from $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ , the numbers are $\qquad$ with $\qquad$ numbers to the left, and $\qquad$ numbers to the right. Similarly, as we read numbers along the vertical axis
from $\qquad$
$\qquad$ , the numbers are $\qquad$ , with negative
numbers below the $\qquad$ and positive numbers above the $\qquad$ .

## Part I - Speed versus Velocity

Velocity is a function of time. Velocity gives us $\qquad$ $\ldots$ $\qquad$ and the $\qquad$
$\qquad$ .

By contrast, speed gives us $\qquad$
$\qquad$ - $\qquad$ , but not the
$\qquad$

The formula for speed is $\qquad$ $=$ $\qquad$ . Thus, by definition, speed is always
$\qquad$ - $\qquad$ .

## Part II - The direction of movement

Assume a particle is moving along a horizontal line. When the particle is moving to the right, then
$\qquad$ . When the particle is moving to the left, then $\qquad$ .

If an object is falling vertically, then $\qquad$ . If an object is traveling upward, then
$\qquad$

Finally, if $\qquad$
$\qquad$ then there are two possible interpretations:

1) the object is $\qquad$
$\qquad$ or
2) the object is at a point where it is $\qquad$ .
