

**Student:** Cole Lamers  
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**Instructor:** Kelly Galarneau  
**Course:** CA&T Internet (70263)  
Galarneau

**Assignment:** 2.2, 10.2 Circle and The Parabola

Find the focus and directrix of the parabola with the equation  $12x^2 = -14y$ . Then graph the parabola.

The standard form of the equations of a parabola with vertex at the origin are  $y^2 = 4ax$ ,  $y^2 = -4ax$ ,  $x^2 = 4ay$ , or  $x^2 = -4ay$ .

For the equation  $y^2 = 4ax$  or  $y^2 = -4ax$ , the focus is on the x-axis, which is the axis of symmetry. For the equation  $x^2 = 4ay$  or  $x^2 = -4ay$ , the focus is on the y-axis, which is the axis of symmetry.

Write the equation  $12x^2 = -14y$  in the standard form  $x^2 = -4ay$ .

$$12x^2 = -14y$$

$$x^2 = -\frac{7}{6}y \quad \text{Divide both sides by 12.}$$

Equate the coefficients of y by comparing with  $x^2 = -4ay$ . Determine the value of a.

$$-4a = -\frac{7}{6}$$

$$a = \frac{7}{24} \quad \text{Divide both sides by } -4.$$

The focus of a parabola with an equation of the form  $x^2 = -4ay$  is at the point  $(0, -a)$ .

The focus of the parabola  $12x^2 = -14y$  is  $\left(0, -\frac{7}{24}\right)$ .

The directrix of a parabola with an equation of the form  $x^2 = -4ay$  has the form  $y = a$ .

The directrix of the parabola  $12x^2 = -14y$  is  $y = \frac{7}{24}$ .

Because the equation of the parabola is of the form  $x^2 = -4ay$  with  $a > 0$ , the parabola, with its y-axis symmetry, opens downward.

The graph of the parabola with the equation  $12x^2 = -14y$  is shown to the right.

