

Terra Linda High School Math Department
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I be successful in my math class?

A: There are six steps to being successful in math:

1. Take detailed notes in class. If your teacher is writing it, you should too. You should also write key information your teacher says during a lesson, even if it is not written on the board.
2. Use your notes and your book while you're working on your homework.
3. Check your answer as you finish each problem in your homework. Odd answers are usually in the back of your textbook, and your teacher has a solution key to all problems in the textbook.
4. If your answer is wrong, rework the problem. Look over your notes to help you, and review an example problem in the text to guide you. If you still can't get the right answer, leave that problem (with your work shown, don't erase!) and go on to the next one.
5. Come back and finish the problems you don't get with help (from another student, a tutor, a teacher, etc.). Don't just copy down the right answer...make sure you can get the right answer on your own.
6. Study math for a little each day by reviewing old homework and tests/ notes, rather than cramming.

Q: I missed class. What should I do?

A: Check your class website if one is available for assignments, and get the notes from a classmate. It is your responsibility to make up missed assignments and notes if you miss class. Check your class outbox for worksheets you missed in class. Write "absent" on your homework and turn it into the inbox or teacher.

Q: I don't understand the material. What should I do?

A: Get the notes and review them. Try some problems and CHECK YOUR ANSWERS. If the errors are still there, review the book and note examples and their steps. If you still attempt them and they aren't working, come in right away for help! You can see your teacher during tutorial or his/her help times and/or attend tutorial in the library after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Q: Is late homework accepted?

A: If you have an excused absence, you may turn your homework in the next class. If you skip assignments, must follow your teacher's late homework policy.

Q: I have a tutor. What's the best way to work with my tutor?

A: Tutors are a great resource outside of your teacher's help times, however, they shouldn't be used to just help you do your homework. To make your tutoring time most successful, complete your assignments *before* you meet with your tutor. This way you can highlight key problems or topics with which you need additional help. Being able to do problems with your tutor does not mean you will be able to do them alone on a test, so it is extremely important that you redo any problems you did with your tutor on your own.

Q: I am interested in taking an Honors course. What are the requirements?

A: Students are eligible to take the qualifying test for Honors courses if they have earned A's for each grading period in the prerequisite course, or A's/B's for each grading period in the Honors prerequisite course. Placement test dates are listed on the website and preparatory materials are linked there as well. The purpose of the tests is to ensure you have the skills necessary to be successful in an honors course. Students who do not pass the placement test can still choose to take Honors courses by filling out a waiver (including parent signatures) and talking with the department chair.

(This document was inspired by Tamalpais High School Math Department)