

How can I succeed in math class?

Get a “can do” attitude:

You are capable of doing math. Do not let past negative experiences or fear effect your success in this class.

Practice a little math every day:

You will not master the concepts in math if you do not take the time to practice doing the problems yourself at home. If you can do it on your own, this will help build your confidence when you take the test.

Take advantage of your math class:

Most colleges and universities require at least college algebra for any bachelor's degree. This is also one of the most difficult classes students have to take in college. Take advantage of the classes that you are taking now so that you can get a solid foundation to prepare you for the difficult courses you will have to take in college. Embrace your math experience in high school and make the most of it.

Get help outside the classroom:

Go to your teacher for extra help before or right after school.

Go to tutoring: Tutoring is provided every Monday through Thursday evening from 5:00-6:30 at the high school. The tutoring program has been very successful here at the high school and we are seeing more and more students coming. Teachers are there to answer specific questions. Remember that they are not there to do your homework, but to answer questions as they arise.

Attend class full time:

Math is a sequential subject. This means that what you learn today builds on what you learned yesterday. Even when we cover entirely new concepts, you will have to use old concepts and use previous skills that you have learned to work the problems. Missing a lot of class time will hurt your learning.

Keep up with the homework:

This is probably the biggest factor for students. You have a busy life, and it is hard to keep up on all that you need to do with school, jobs, and sports. However, you will find that if you keep up on the homework and complete assignments when they are due, you will have more time than if you play the catch up game. Homework helps you practice the applications of math concepts. It is like trying to learn the hurdles: the longer you practice, the better you get at them and the

more confidence you will have. If you only read a manual on how to do hurdles, you would never learn how to go over them with confidence and skill.

Try to understand the math problems:

When you work homework problems, ask yourself what you are looking for and how you are going to get there. Don't just follow the example. Work the problem step-by-step until you know why you are doing what you are doing and have arrived at the solution. If you follow the what, how, and whys, you will know what to do when you see a similar problem later.

Use index cards to study tests:

When studying for a test, make sure you can understand the problems on each math concept as well as work them. Then make the index cards with problems on them. Mix the index cards and set a timer. Start working problems in each card as it is dealt to you. Hide your text book. This will help simulate the experience you will have taking the math test.

Ask questions in class:

Don't be ashamed to ask questions. The teacher WILL NOT make fun of you. In fact, usually you are not the only one that has the exact same question.

Ask questions outside of class:

If you are too uncomfortable to ask questions in class, or you think of questions too late, then come after or before school to ask your teacher the questions that you have.

Pay attention in class:

Math snowballs. If you don't stay alert to the teacher's presentation, you may miss important steps to learning concepts. Remember that today's lesson sets the foundation for tomorrow's work.