

Mrs. Barnard's Guide

HOW TO STUDY FOR MATH

1) ASK QUESTIONS

I strongly encourage you to ask questions in class when you do not understand a concept. It's part of learning and I do not expect you to know everything - otherwise my job wouldn't be necessary. I am here to help you learn. If my answer or explanation is still vague or unclear to you and you need additional help please come see me before or after school.

2) ALWAYS KEEP UP ON YOUR HOMEWORK

If you fall behind on homework in math, it will be very hard to catch up and you will have trouble with all lessons that follow as well. Math builds on the foundations of the previous day, so practice and understanding is essential to your success.

3) PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO MY EXPLANATIONS IN CLASS

Do not be a distraction to yourself or others. I typically do not explain it like the book so if you are absent or not paying attention you will be lost.

4) TAKE NEAT AND DETAILED NOTES

Each day you are required to write detailed class notes neatly in your math notebook. This will help you tremendously to check and maintain your knowledge and math skills. They are also critical aides to assist you in studying for quizzes and tests.

5) WHOLE-HEARTEDLY TAKE AND STUDY THE CLOSURE PROBLEMS

These questions are like a review test and will let you know if you are ready for the test. Remember it is not the answer that shows me how bright you are, it is the process of how you GET those answers.

6) WHEN YOU GO HOME FROM SCHOOL YOU SHOULD:

- a. Re-read your classwork in your math notebook.
- b. Take some notes on anything critical to study with red ink.
- c. Complete your homework problems for the day - I don't assign a large amount.
- d. **SHOW YOUR WORK** - the process in your math notebook
- e. Write any questions or comments you still have for me.
- f. Take time to study math (THIS IS EXPLAINED BELOW)

7) YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOING HOMEWORK AND ACTUALLY STUDYING MATH. IF YOU ONLY DO HOMEWORK EVERY DAY, YOU WILL NOT DO WELL. STUDYING MATH CAN ALSO CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

a. KEEPING TRACK OF INCORRECT PROBLEMS IN YOUR MATH NOTEBOOK

In class I can give you the answers to your homework and re-work the problems with you if needed. If you miss a problem you should fix it on the same page in different color pencil/ink so you have it as a reference for studying.

b. DO EXTRA PROBLEMS FOR HOMEWORK

If you do additional problems, beyond what is assigned, it is excellent practice and I will give you additional homework points for your time and dedication.

c. MAKING FLASHCARDS

You should choose one to three problems each day and convert them to flashcards. Write the problem from the lesson on the front. On the back, write the solution, steps, date and topic. By the end of the chapter you will have a packet of cards to study. As you review previously taught concepts, you can shuffle the cards and see what you remember. If not, you can turn the card over and see which date of notes you need to go back and study. By reviewing flashcards all year, you will be in excellent shape for each quarter's benchmark exam, and state testing.

NOTE: I realize that you may not have time to do all of these things every single day. I also realize, you may only have 30% of yourself to give me on occasion. I EXPECT THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME 100% OF YOUR 30%. The degree of success you have in your math class is up to you. The amount of time and effort you choose to spend will directly affect your success in math. PLEASE REMEMBER that I am always around to answer your questions and to help you understand things. I care about you and will do everything in my power to help you succeed!

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