

# Getting the Most out of your Math Class

If you want to get the most out of your time in class then you need to come to the class prepared to be an active participant. You should always be on time to class and ready to learn when class starts. Here are some helpful tips for getting the most out of your math class:

1. Be prepared! Read the section(s) that will be covered before class. This will give you a better understanding of the material and as a result you will learn more in class. Grab the handouts on **Reading a Math Text Book**, **Notecards**, and **Learning Maps** for techniques to help you read and understand the text before you come to class.
2. Have all necessary supplies and an organized notebook. Refer to the handout on **Keeping an Organized Notebook** for more information on how to organize your notebook.
3. Attend every class!! Research shows that successful students never cut class and usually take notes on at least 64% on what is being discussed. Missing even one class puts you behind in the course by at least two days.
4. Take full class notes. Look at the handout on **Taking Good Notes** for more information on taking good notes in class.
5. Make sure you have a seat where you can read what is written on the board and hear all the discussion. The front row or down the center of the room is usually ideal.
6. Answer all of your instructor's questions. You may do so by volunteering, or silently to yourself.
7. Ask questions when you don't understand! Other students often have the same question and appreciate hearing the answer. If you do not have the opportunity to ask the question in class, make a note of your question on paper, and be sure to follow up with the instructor, a tutor, classmate, or your book to determine the answer. The longer you wait before getting help, the harder it will be to catch up. Math builds on itself and you need the information

you learn today in order to understand the material you will learn tomorrow.

8. If you miss a class, ask the instructor for any handouts and a classmate for a copy of their complete notes. Read the notes and the corresponding section of the textbook and make a serious attempt to do the homework. Look for on-line videos on the section you missed. If you still have questions, write out specific questions to ask your instructor, a classmate, or a tutor. Don't expect the instructor or a tutor to teach you the entire section you missed but do ask your questions once you have worked on it on your own.

