

Tamalpais High School Math Department
Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a handy list of frequently asked math questions. Please keep this sheet in your binder as it will help you through your math studies in any math class here at Tam High School.

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.

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, or you can see other teachers in the department. Please check the flyers within the math building for help times around campus.

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, your teacher will refer you to MMTS.

Q: What is MMTS?

A: MMTS is our Mandatory Math Tutoring Support program. It is designed to help you be successful in math, and is scheduled when you miss assignments or are in need of more math help. MMTS times, locations, and makeup assignments will be arranged by your math teacher. Students who attend MMTS and complete assignments will be eligible for partial credit on assignments completed in the session. For more information about MMTS, please see the back of this sheet.

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. Eligible students will be contacted individually by their math teachers about important information, meetings, and qualifying test dates in late February. Only eligible students with qualifying grades whose names have been provided by their math teachers will be admitted to the testing sessions. Further information can be found in the Tam High Course Guide and will be provided to eligible students in the spring.

Q: My teacher uses Home Access. How do I check my grade?

A: If your teacher uses the Home Access Center, you will need to be sure to check your cumulative grade online (not just your "R" grade). Go to <http://home.tamdistrict.org/faq.htm> if you need help.

For more information about the Tamalpais High School Math Department, please see our website at <http://tamhigh.org>. Go to Academics > Mathematics Department.