Tips for Math Students

This stuff will make your life easier in every math class. Do it!

1. **Math builds on itself.** What we did last week is probably going to be important for what we do this week – and next week, and the week after that, too. Just because we’ve had an exam on a topic doesn’t mean that it’s gone and will never be seen again.

2. **Engineering paper rocks.** Engineering paper is that yellow-green stuff sold in the bookstore. It has grid lines on it. It is great for doing math: the lines help with drawing diagrams, and they keep your writing straight. Go buy a pad and use it for your homework.

3. **Get to class early.** If you’re in class and have your notebook and calculator out before class starts, then we’ll have more time for questions and other useful stuff. Class officially begins at 5 minutes after the hour: get here on the hour and spend those extra 5 minutes preparing.

4. **If you are confused, so is half the class.** So don’t be afraid to ask a question! You’ll be a hero to everyone else who is too chicken to speak up. If you’re not sure what question to ask, tell me what part is confusing you. We’ll figure it out from there.

5. **Do not ask “What can I do to raise my grade?” on the last day of class.** Do talk to me as soon as you think you’re getting lost, or as soon as you feel like your grades aren’t as good as you want them to be. It’s far too late to help when the semester’s almost done.

6. **Visit me during office hours – I’m bored!** Those are five hours a week when I have to be in my office, and I’ll die of boredom unless you personally come to ask me questions. You can also sit in (or near) my office and work on homework, and ask questions as you find them. Seeing you during my office hours shows me that you’re trying hard in my class.