

What can I do to improve my grade?????

I often hear this question from students and parents. Below are some suggestions on things that can be done to improve understanding, and therefore improve grades in math.

1. **Complete homework.** Homework has a couple of purposes (other than just the grade for completing it). First, homework allows a student to know whether he/she understands the material presented in class. If the student struggles with the assigned homework, then that lets the student know that he/she did not understand the material from class and needs to get further help (tutoring, looking over notes, online resources—all discussed below). The student should take the necessary steps to go back and learn the information, and then should complete some extra practice problems. Homework problems, with understanding, are a way to practice the concepts learned in class (second purpose of homework). I typically do not assign all problems, so if a student feels he/she needs additional practice, there will be more problems for practice in the assignment.
2. **Study every night (in addition to completing homework).** After completing homework, students should spend some time looking back over notes and sample problems from the day (from notes, classwork, warm ups, handouts, etc.). This will allow the student to study daily and keep up daily, rather than cramming the night before a test.
3. **Look over notes.** We take notes in class so that students have the ability to look back over steps and sample problems. Notes are a valuable resource that allows the student to look back over steps if struggling with homework or concepts. If the student's notes are not helpful, there are also class notes available online that offer complete notes from class, as well as color coding options that are used with notes. These notes can be found in the make up section of the class.
4. **Come to tutoring.** If you do not understand concepts, come to tutoring as soon as possible. Concepts continue to build daily, so if a student gets confused one day, the confusion will build quickly as additional topics are built onto topics. My tutoring times are posted on the online class calendar.
5. **Use online resources.** I have an online resources section on my website for all classes I teach. Be sure to click on the + to expand to see all units. Links for resources for each unit are listed by topic and arranged alphabetically to help students find topics easily. Online resources provide additional steps, and well as websites that can provide additional practice problems.
6. **Complete optional assignments that are provided.** I often offer students optional assignments that will give students additional practice on topics we are covering (which will improve understanding). The optional assignments allow students to earn bonus points to apply to homework or test grades (each optional assignment will list what points are available to earn). These optional assignments are a great way to improve understanding and boost grades at the same time.