

Frequently Asked Questions

How many years of math are required for graduation?

The state of California requires 3 years of mathematics including CCSS Algebra I or (CCSS Integrated Math I). For those interested in attending a UC or CSU after high school, 3 years are required (CCSS Integrated Math I, II, III or its equivalent), but 4 years are recommended.

What do I do if my student begins having difficulty with math?

There are several options available to you and your student when difficulties arise. We recommend trying one or more of the following:

- Encourage your student to see his/her teacher. By communicating with the teacher and expressing his/her concerns, they have a much better chance of success if they let the teacher know how they can assist them in their learning. Each teacher has office hours either at lunch or after school (see 'Office Hours' under Academic Support). Remember, your student's teacher is the direct link towards discovering underlying difficulties in that particular class.
- Get help from the teacher during their office hours to discuss quiz, test or homework questions that the student did not understand after discussing it in class.
- It is imperative for your student to keep current with notes and material from class (daily attendance is of utmost importance).
- In order to develop problem solving skills and gain comfort with unique problem situations, students should complete all daily assignments independently and then should seek help (if necessary). Math is like athletics, learning all the rules is not enough, they **MUST** practice!
- Use edu 2.0 as a resource and to check grades regularly. Many of our teachers post lessons and/or notes online, worksheets, information about the class, and information about upcoming projects or assignments. Visiting edu 2.0 regularly will keep you and your student current and "in the know" about what's going on in the course. Parents can create an account to stay informed about their student's progress. Directions are on the dphs.sbunified.org home page under the parent tab.
- Use the textbook and/or notes as a resource: look at example problems; use the text's website for extra practice, if available. There are also many online resources/tutorials that are available such www.khanacademy.org, www.patrickjmt.com, wolframalpha.com, slader.com or www.showme.com.
- Create a study group with other students taking the same class. Have your student try getting fellow classmates phone numbers or e-mails so that they can contact them for help or to find out discussions missed during absences.

- Peer tutoring is available daily after school in the library. See Mrs. Wagner if you are interested in obtaining a peer tutor.

Does my student need a graphing calculator?

The DP Math Department uses TI-nSpire CX graphing calculator extensively in Integrated Math I Plus Enrichment, Algebra 2, Alg2/Trig Honors and Pre-Calculus. They are used for checking work, graphing, programming, modeling, transmitting/monitoring via the Navigator wireless system, completing projects, conducting Common Core exploration activities, presenting multiple representations and solidifying concepts.

Students can check out an nSpire or TI-84+ graphing calculator from the library. Many students and families prefer to purchase their own graphing calculator and DP makes them available for purchase at a discounted price compared to local stores. To purchase an nSpire calculator, bring a check made out to "DPHS" for \$134 to H-27 after school as long as supplies last.

TI-nSpire calculators are permitted on SAT, ACT, AP and IB tests and the nSpire software allows an emulator to run on a desktop computer. The CAS models will not be allowed in class.

More information can be found at www.education.ti.com and/or check with your teacher if you have any questions.

Graphing Calculators for Apple Devices:

Note: There are apps available for students to use on their Apple devices, but students will not be allowed to use them on tests and quizzes since the devices they are on compromise the security of the test.

There is a \$30 nSpire app available for the iPad which will eventually be a cheaper option to buying a handheld calculator. The only current drawback is that it hasn't been approved to be used on the standardized tests mentioned above. If you are looking for free graphing calculator apps, we recommend: Free Graphing Calculator and Graphing Calculator by Desmos.

What are some things my child can do to better prepare them for math class?

Research has shown that success depends more on practice and perseverance than innate ability. (Dubner and Levitt. New York Times 5/7/06, Psychology Today November/December 2005).

Here are some of things we strongly urge all students to do, especially those that are looking for ways to improve their grade:

- Complete daily assignments (upon completion students should seek out help as soon as possible regarding problems they did not understand). The longer the student waits to get his/her questions answered, the more behind they will fall in learning the new material.
- Practice past problems discussed in class by working them out again (these could be warm-up problems, test/quiz questions, or homework problems). Focus especially on problems that the student did not understand the first time they completed the problem. Remember to re-do problems on not just re-look at them.
- Use internet resources for the textbook, if available. Many online textbooks offer practice quizzes along with video tutorials which are great resources for students having difficulty with the material. There are other online resources/tutorials that are available such as www.khanacademy.org, www.patrickjmt.com, wolframalpha.com, slader.com or www.showme.com.

- Use edu 2.0 as a resource. Visiting edu 2.0 regularly will keep students current with what's going on in the course along with an up to date view of his/her performance in the class.
- Create a "practice" quiz/test by pulling odd numbered questions from the text and working them out. Students can check the answers in the back of the book to see how well they did.
- Work with another student(s) in the class. Finding someone he/she can call if they "get stuck" is a great resource to helping them learn the material.
- Try making flash cards to help aid in learning theorems, formulas or math facts.