

Tips and Strategies for Success in Ms. Wong's Precalculus Course:

1. Ask questions as soon as possible! When learning a new topic, ask if you do not understand, whether right there and then (chances are you are not the only person with a question), or after class or after school. While doing homework, make a list of questions to ask - be as specific as possible. Do not just say "I don't get it". What part of the problem/concept do you not understand?
2. Take good notes in class! Notes are always color coded (notes are in blue; important information is in red. Examples are in green). Learn to discern for yourself what is important - that is an important skill to know for future academic success in ANY course. Maintain your notebook and keep it organized. Be able to find Do Now problems, notes, handouts, homework, vocabulary checks. Maintain a section for graded assessments.
3. When doing homework or studying, look back on the notes to see how problems were completed in class. Rewrite notes to help you remember important concepts. When studying, do problems over and over. Cover up examples to see if you can complete them yourself. Redo review sheets, homework problems, etc. The two best ways to study for math is to do problems and explain them aloud to someone (or something) else.
4. Complete ALL homework assignments daily. Check answers to all odd problems with those in the back of the book AND on calcchat.com. Don't just check the final answer - look over the worked out solutions to make sure you are using the correct procedures and you understand the concepts involved. If the problem is incorrect, try it again! Try another one similar to the one with which you struggle. Practice makes perfect (and also helps if you find yourself running out of time on assessments). If the answer is still incorrect, ask a friend or ask in class the next day - come to class prepared with questions
5. Check your work. Don't just look over problems and follow the same exact steps. Try to find other ways to check your answer. Utilize technology (such as the graphing calculator), substitute in values, work backwards - compile a "toolchest" of strategies for checking your answers.
6. Complete your homework assignments for the sake of understanding the content! Do NOT do your homework just to "get it done"! All work must be written out for each problem. Just writing answers is never acceptable and, more specifically, doesn't help you to prepare for success on major assessments and doesn't help me evaluate you informally. Completing work solely on the graphing calculator is not acceptable either. You must show the algebra that justifies your solutions. What if graphing calculators are not allowed - what do you do, then?

7. If you are confused with a topic try google-ing it! Every section of a textbook and every distributed handout contains a title/concept. Use this to help with your search. [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), [khanacademy.com](https://www.khanacademy.com), and [mathispower4u.com](https://www.mathispower4u.com) are excellent resources. You may find more on the LINKS page of my website. When watching videos, pause and rewind as much as necessary. Copy down the same problems shown in the video. Do the problems, then compare your method for solving with that shown in the video.
8. If you are still confused with the topic, come for extra help sessions. I post on my website each week when I am available and where to find me. Other resources: every afternoon in rm G7 with Mr. Lell, or every Wednesday after school in rm G15 with peer-to-peer tutoring with the Mu Alpha Theta National Math Honor Society. Do not wait until right before a test or quiz to ask questions or come for help - others will have the same intent and "compete" with you for assistance. It is most effective to go into extra help sessions prepared with any questions that you are struggling with and with your attempted work. This way the person giving the extra help can determine where you made your mistakes and help you to readjust your thinking process.
9. Review any returned assessments. Look at the comments written on your paper to help guide you in working through the problem more successfully next time. Compare the problems to review sheets (and solutions), class examples, examples in the textbook, etc.
10. Consult my website: www.teacherweb.com/NJ/EastBrunswickHS/SWong frequently. There you will find
 - a. Important announcements including upcoming tests/quizzes/projects
 - b. Assigned homework
 - c. Blank review sheets and their corresponding worked out solutions
 - d. Some solutions to homework problems (esp. if even problems were assigned)
 - e. links to internet sources being utilized in class
11. Subscribe to REMIND to make sure you are getting the most updated information

Remember our theme - it will serve you well in "the real world"!!!

Your success in math is not based on how many answers you know,

but by what you do when you don't know the answer. - Anon