

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR ADVICE FOR MY STUDENTS:

I thought I would compile a list of advice to help you succeed in my class:

1. Easily the most important thing you can do for yourself is to come to class every day and be on time. (Try to have no more than 2 absences and 1 tardy per quarter).
2. Complete all your homework and look at the study guides in a timely manner. Your homework grade should be an easy A. As for the study guides, work on it the day it comes out. That way if you have questions, you'll have plenty of time to get help and learn from your mistakes.
3. To increase your chances of performing well on my quizzes, whether they are AP Calculus, SAT, or PERT prep quizzes, you'll do much better on them if you practice those types of questions on your own time. We'll go over a lot of practice questions together in class throughout the school year, but I have found that students are much more successful if they do not limit themselves to just my practice questions. Spend some of your own time practicing and preparing.
4. Don't cheat on my tests or quizzes. If you decide to cheat, there's a pretty good chance I'll figure it out, and I'll confront you about it.
5. Have a good attitude and be kind to each other. I would rather deal with a student who has a great attitude but is terrible in math than a student who is great in math but has a terrible attitude. In addition, if you are a senior, don't let senioritis affect you. I've had seniors in the past who were phenomenal during Quarters 1 - 3. But then Quarter 4 hit, they felt entitled to everything, had an attitude toward me and their classmates, and now that's how I remember them after they graduated. So please, be kind and do what you are supposed to do.
6. Try to keep everything in balance. Of all the ones on this list, this one will probably be the most challenging for you. You have to routinely get a good night sleep, come to class prepared, ready, and focused, you have to keep on top of your studies, but you also have to have a little bit of fun. I would think that video games, Netflix, and/or parties appeal to most of you, but don't spend all your free time doing that. Get your studies under control, and reward yourself with those things.
7. Don't be afraid to reach out for help (assuming you are doing everything you can to understand the material being taught). If you need extra help, I'll be there for you. Just make sure you do your part, and meet me half way.
8. The last piece of advice is more about what your responsibilities are as a student. You are either an AP student, and honors student, or a senior, and because of this, you all act as role models for every student here at Mount Dora High School. Showing up to **all** your classes on time, being respectful to your peers and your teachers, and staying on top of your studies is all part of the gig. Toward the end of the year, you'll be anxious to get out of here, but it's important you stay motivated and consistently push yourself from the first day of school to the last day. Make sure you represent your names well.