

Calculus Reflection Essay

It's your senior year (unless you're a junior; if so, respect), you didn't throw in the towel like so many others did. You proceeded to take AP Calculus - the hardest math course offered at MDHS. Don't worry, **your choice will be justly rewarded**. You'll have two back to back periods of math, and while that may seem intimidating, you will be thankful for it because Calculus is unlike any other high school math course you've ever taken. This class will be taking all the information you learned throughout the years and use it to its maximum potential. You'll learn about derivatives, integrals, a bunch of stuff that will allow you to analyze a graph in much more detail compared to a normal math student. However, before you start your year, there are a few things you should keep in mind:

1. You have to have a strong "stick with it" attitude in this class. This class WILL get tough at times, and there will be concepts that you don't understand right away. Don't panic and give up! Try to keep an open mind, keep practicing, and the tough concepts will eventually click. You have the class and Mr. Brenneman to help if you need it. You are not alone in this class!
2. The number one goal for any AP student should be to pass the AP test at the end of the year. So if you want to do well in this class and get a free college credit, my advice to you is to take the AP Test Prep/Review every Friday seriously! This prep will be your biggest aid to passing the AP Test. All reviews are cumulative, so things that you learn in Quarter 1 will show up again in Q2, Q3, and Q4. If you master concepts early, you will be doing yourself a favor because the same types of questions show up again and again and again for every quiz. If you don't understand something, get help ASAP which brings me to my last point:
3. Take advantage of Mr. Brenneman's willingness to help you. When he gives you time in class to work on the homework, do it. If you scored poorly on an AP Quiz, or don't understand what's going on in the study guides, come in for ready time. Or worst case scenario, just see him after school. He will be there for you; you just need to meet him half way.

So these are the things I think you should keep in mind before you start your year. This class was difficult at times, but most if not all of you had Mr. Brenneman in Precalculus. You know his system. He's a fair teacher, the notes he provides are top notch, and you will have plenty of opportunities to practice Calculus questions through Khan Academy, his website homeworks, and AP Test Prep. You just have to do your part and put in the work. Good luck, and enjoy your year in this class. It goes by quickly!

From a former Calculus Student: Sheikh Islam