How Should I Study Math?

- **The ultimate responsibility for learning rests with the students.** The instructor is only a facilitator, the school is only a campus and the text is only a book. Come to class each day, on time and prepared for the scheduled instruction. Study the material in advance and jot down questions to ask the instructor.

- **Learning rarely occurs in the classroom.** For math, learning most often comes from working problems. At least, make an attempt to work most of the assigned problems. Seek the assistance of others, but participate in the process. Work groups are effective only if participants have active roles.

- **Timely Learning is effective learning.** It is better to study an hour each day of the week than to study 7 hours every weekend. After each lecture or recitation, use the very next free period to reinforce what was taught by attempting example problems. The longer you wait, the more you forget, and the more you waste your time. If you wait until the weekend, often an hour or more is needed just to review and reconstruct the lecture from the notes. Cramming for a test does not work very well. Instead, review problems that you have already worked and attempt to work similar problems in the textbook.

- **Brush up on basic skills.** Most textbooks have review sections for basic skills. Make sure that you understand the basic skills well.

- **Study the syllabus.** Know what will be covered on tests, when they will be given, and how much they will be used to determine your grade.

- **Find a class partner and obtain this person’s phone number.** Use a buddy system so that each of you can notify the other of class or lab activities that one of you has missed. Have this person pick up extra handouts and instructions given in your absence.

- **Organization is the key to effective learning.** Keep a loose-leaf filled binder with tabbed sections for: Handouts, Notes, Homework, Tests, Graded Papers, Syllabus.

- Please go to [http://www.purplemath.com/stdysrvy.htm](http://www.purplemath.com/stdysrvy.htm) to take the Math Study Skills Self-Survey.


**I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE COURSE!!!  GOOD LUCK!!!**