

Sharing Your Advice

In the space below, please write a letter to next year's AP Calculus students, sharing your helpful advice to those who are just starting this journey. What worked well for you? Is there anything you wish you had done differently? What carried you through the more difficult sections? Be as specific as you like, and keep in mind that next year's students will be reading your advice in August!

Hello next year's AP Calculus Students,

First of all, congratulations on choosing a challenging math class such as this. This class will be difficult and easy at points. Some advice to facilitate learning in this class would be to definitely do ALL of the AP RP's, also try not to procrastinate (I stayed late at night doing these and I could've used the sleep), and watch the getafive.com videos for a quick summary and practice. For me at least, the concept sheets worked better to remember the more difficult sessions. If you want to do well in this class keep it simple DO YOUR WORK, absorb as much of the content as possible, and practice in order to do great. As Mrs. Brown says and as she will tell you...

Good Skills,

Jean Vega

2016-2017 Math-loving Senior

P.S. Have fun, Mrs. Brown might sing you a silly song to ~~help~~ ^{you} help remember concepts. The songs actually work honestly. I was singing them to myself during the AP Exam.


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Dear AP Calculus student,

Shout out to you for deciding to take on AP Calc! This course will definitely come with its challenges, but with a little time management and a lot of focus, getting a 5 will be a breeze.

I'm sure your main concern as a student starting out is what to expect. Luckily, unlike many of your other teachers, Mrs. Brown actually cares about your success. In class, like any other math class, you'll have lessons and practice problems, but the homework is a little different. Not only will you have assignments each day (which in themselves are a reasonable length), but you'll also get APRPs (AP Review Packets). These are super long so please make a point to plan how you'll complete them. Also, it's not against the rules to collab with other students, so get a few friends (who are SMART) at the beginning of the year that you can work with. I've gotten so many 100s, only because my classmates caught my mistakes. Trust me, it might just save your grade!



But even more important than that is FOCUSING IN CLASS. I've missed important concepts in lessons and not heard Mrs. Brown discussing an assignment more times than I can count. Unless you're a really smart math person it can be a strain to concentrate on some of the really complex things you'll have to learn this year. But even I ended the year with an A and I feel very confident about the exam, because I didn't procrastinate and I took advantage of Mrs. Brown's help. Good habits can make or break you in this class, as well as every other one.

Take it from someone who's been through this class: time management, organization, and personal commitment to success are now more crucial than ever. Take good notes. Do your homework. Ask Mrs. Brown for help, and take her advice! It'll take effort, but AP calc doesn't have to be so bad.

You've got this!

Sincerely,

Mary Holmbeck

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Dear Future Ap Calculus Student,
Congratulations! You've decided to take AP Calc, which means you somewhat know what you're doing in math, and somewhat enjoy it. Welcome to one of the hardest classes at Lyman. By the end of the year, you're going to be a much better student - trust me. If there's one piece of advice I can give you that I wish I knew a year ago, it's this: you get out what you put in. If you expect to go to class 3 times a week, do some of the homework, and not really study for the tests, you won't do well in this class. In order to do well in Calc, you have to go above and beyond; you have to put in 110%. You must be willing to do at least an hour of homework a night, and study for the tests and quizzes multiple days in advance. Utilize your teacher as a tool - they want to help you and are willing to do so, but only if you are willing to help yourself.

Good luck next year,
Grayson Parise

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Dear New AP Calculus student,

Don't freak out. Calc isn't that hard, and if you feel like you're struggling a bit there are many resources that can help you.

Focus on the APP's because they are worth more points. If you check your answers you'll have an easy grade. A lot of harder topics don't show up that much on the AP Exam. **MEMORIZE DERIVATIVE RULES AND ANTIDERIVATIVES BECAUSE YOU NEED TO KNOW ALL OF THEM.**

Don't forget about trig identities and the unit circle. Study concepts and don't cram the night before a test. If you need help, you can email me at

erica.hetrick58@gmail.com

I wish you good luck and good skills!

From,
Erica Hetrick - BC Calculus

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Hello fellow Calculus Student,

If you're reading this, it means you're sitting in Ms. Brown's classroom and are about to start taking a college-level math course! Congratulations! This course may seem challenging and frustrating at times, but it will all be worth it when May comes around and you're able to dominate that exam!

In order to achieve success in this class, time management and self-motivation are critical for those who want to do well as assignments, tests, and those AP exams. I was able to ~~quite~~ ^{do quite} well in this course because I stayed on top of every homework assignment because it really does help you understand that certain topic or unit. Also, doing your homework on time guarantees you easy points for the gradebook which will help you later in the semester...

trust me. Of course, paying attention to every single lesson and video tutorial is a must because these are the main outlets of information for this class.

This class, at times, will seem overwhelming and tough, but I was able to get through it by trusting in my abilities and seeking guidance or even assurance from my fellow classmates that this class is worth the time and energy. Whatever people say for you taking the extra initiative to take this rewarding class is useless as you are the one that will be able to skip introductory calculus courses while they are struggling to tell the difference between a derivative and an integral!

You got this! Teamwork makes the dreamwork... #ABCalcWin

Jackson Henningfield

(2017 Grad, finished in Top 2% of class)

P.S. I know what I'm talking about, you'll be good!

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Dear future AP Calculus students,

I praise your decision to choose AP Calculus. You may have not had a great year in Precalc but none of ~~that~~ matters then, it is what you do now that counts. It is not too late to brush up on Algebra and get those skills down. Calculus is a largely concept-based subject and the only thing that can stop you from getting a 5 on the AP Exam is your Algebra and mental math. For those that struggle in Algebra, take some time to use Khan Academy or just look up videos; we live in a time where knowledge is at your fingertips. There is no excuse. For those of you who are Algebra buffs, study the Calculus concepts and let the words of Mary Sue and Opera Sue resonate through your member. For those inbetween, step up and get a (5). 😊

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Dear Student,

The biggest mistake you could make in AP Calculus is not doing the APRs. There are a huge grade and your grade will suffer greatly if you don't do them. Just in general, do all the work so if you fail a test you have a cushion. Don't rely on the spinner. **DO NOT RELY ON THE SPINNER.** The odds might seem like they're in your favor, but they aren't. Luck will make sure it'll never go your way. Trust me. Also, pre-calculus is called that for a reason. Those concepts come back. Knowing parent graphs, and the unit circle are the biggest concepts from pre-calculus needed in calculus. Lastly, remember, the internet is a great place use it to your advantage. Trust me I got an A, well on 89.4 first semester and an A second. So trust me. I got you.

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I Dear Future AP Student (Calculus),

First of all, buckle down now. You're not going to survive if you start off rocky! The spin to save is not going to save you when you really need it to.

Really watch those get a five videos to be able to understand, not for the notes. The homework is a grade saver so do it!

Don't procrastinate on the AP RP's, they are always going to save you if you take the time to care about them.

I wish I had known to always wear Luman on math days for spin to save and how important the Reviews are to the prep of exams. Work hard and you'll be fine.

—Past AP Calculus Student (2017)

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DON'T PROCRASTINATE! Some of the AP/IB's are long and will take you an ample amount of time. You'll be annoyed by your grade and complain about the homework assignments only being worth 2 points, so make sure you truly understand the topics at hand and that you're prepared for the quizzes / tests to earn the grade you deserve. Seek help whenever possible, there's an unlimited number of resources out there with Khan Academy, Youtube, etc. It's like playing sports, you reap what you sow - if you're putting in work at practice (class) and going to the gym on your own (work done at home), then when the big game comes (exam) you'll be ready and show scouts why you deserve a scholarship (AP credit). Again, DON'T PROCRASTINATE, even after I say that, you're going to, so make sure to use those "absences" wisely - you get 9 of them per semester. Even though I may have made this class seem intimidating, it's honestly not that bad and just another chapter in your life, remember to never take those for granted and that you get what you put in. Good luck and have fun!

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Dear New AP Calc Students,

Math Isn't Hard! unless you make it hard.

The first few weeks you spend in Mrs. Brown's class might leave you clueless, especially if you took

Pre-calc online like me. But, the resources to better your education are in fact there.

If there was one thing I could do differently it would be to use external sources more often such as Khan academy and other written books than the provided textbooks.

Don't Be Afraid To Ask Questions!

If you feel that everyone will look down on you for not understanding a lesson, don't. If you're ever having difficulty with a specific lesson ask Mrs. Brown because she is more than willing to help.

This also applies to tutoring, I never went to tutoring because of my pride and my grades reflected it.

So if you're stumped or simply falling behind go to tutoring ASAP it will do nothing but better your understanding of the material. ~~these few~~

~~tips~~ Have Fun Throughout the Year!

- Ismail Raphael

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Hey person in Calculus... here are some tips for the rest of the year ☺

- do the APP's! The more practice you get, the better off you'll be

- when you look for problems for the quarter exam reviews, don't settle for the easy questions - it'll better prepare you for the exams

- FRQ's will definitely get easier for you. Don't worry.

- memorize your basic derivatives & antiderivatives!!!

- the more assignments you complete, the more of a buffer there'll be if you don't do so hot on a test

- Stay positive! Calc isn't hard if you don't believe it's hard

Good luck!

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You may think this is like all the easier math classes, but it isn't. This is actually a very important class, especially if you major in engineering. You must understand the concepts instead of just trying to pass the class. Do out your AP RP's and take good notes. Try to create a big study group to help each other. Practice makes perfect.

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The number one thing I can suggest is to do your homework from day 1. Regardless of how few points it is worth it adds up and will significantly help with the more difficult topics. The only other thing I can suggest is to ask for help when you need it. It never hurts and if you wait by the time you plan to ask you will be on a new topic and when it comes up on the test you will regret not asking for the help.

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I'm going to make this straight forward.
Make sure to study, do your work, and
complete your summer assignments. Do them
earlier so you don't forget them. Finally, if
you don't understand something get help from Mrs.
Brown, not the internet.
Good luck, Ryan Woodard

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Dear New AP Calc Student,

I'm not going to sugar coat this and tell you it will all be OK. I'm going to tell you the truth. Calculus is hard and it requires a lot of effort and time. But don't panic! It's manageable. Do your homework the night it's assigned, this will make sure you don't end up with too much math hw and an APRP all due the next day. APRP's are your life saver! Do THEM! They help a lot with skills as well as raise your grade. At the end of the year, take the practice AP exams seriously as they are the best review tool for the AP Exam.

Good luck - work hard - Good skills!

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Dear future student,

This class is very easily manageable if you do what you are supposed to do. Watch all of the Get a Fire videos as they really help and always work through the APRPs for extra practice. The APRPs are incredibly useful and really help with the AP Exam. Time management with the APRPs are crucial as they are quite difficult to conquer in one night. Achieving a high score on this AP Exam is really easy if you work on the practice tests beforehand. Also, bring your own calculator to class and get used to it as it is not easy to adapt to a calculator on the last day before the exam. I would recommend the TI-84 or TI-nspire as both of them easily compute integrals and derivatives. Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Grayan Dube

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Commit to the workload from the beginning and don't slack off. Time management is critical. I wish that I was more committed in the first quarter because it messed up my whole semester one grade. ALWAYS do the APP's! Good luck this year ☺

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Hi,

I think AP is a hard class to complete, like many AP's, but I believe you can do it. With time management and putting in time and work into the class then you can thrive in the class. Mrs. Brown is great if you follow the timing of her assignments, she is not loose with due dates, if she says something is due, then it is due. There are maybe exceptions if it is understandable. If an APRP is due and you are not there, it is not excused or delayed, you better find some way to get it to her, email, carrier, any way possible because this is your grade. Also, Getafive videos are really helpful in understanding core concepts, the lady in the video explains them very well and although she may seem a bit dry, she's low-key funny. You will enjoy guest stars in the class like Mary-Sue. AP Calc sounds intimidating but it really isn't (I tell people I take AP Calc to make them think I'm this Mini-Einstein). Learning the topics with Mrs. Brown is very simple, you can most definitely get through this year.

P.S. You're going to need a planner for this year.

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Dear future students,

If I were to retake this course I would utilize my class time to ask more questions. I would also do more review problems/FRQs and watch more videos. I would definitely find a group of study partners and review classwork/homework/practice tests together.

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Do the APP's and FRQ's! The beta lady is kinda boring but she usually clears up a lot of confusion with dumb ideas. I wish I didn't procrastinate on the SD question APP's. Tears, tenacity, and friends (hahaha), got me through the tough sections. Don't be afraid to ask for help, Ms. Brown loved (at least I hope) to help me and clear things up.

glnB4 mcY glnB2

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