

## How to Help Your Child Succeed in AP Calculus

- Make sure they are doing homework every day (including on weekends). Assignments are given at every class meeting and should take about 20-25 minutes. I don't expect you to assist with homework, just to see that it is being done.
- Encourage your child to read the textbook and study its examples. There are also very good instructional videos online at [www.houstonact.org](http://www.houstonact.org) in case they are absent or just want to have the material presented again.
- Help them to formulate specific questions. "I don't understand this!" is NOT a question. "Can you help me see how you found the equation in the third line?" is much more likely to garner assistance.
- When students encounter difficulty, have them attend tutorials. I am available every morning, during lunch and ETEH, and most days after school. Come in before getting too far behind!
- Help them to form study groups with other serious students. Pizza can be a powerful lure to entice study-ers to your house.
- Remind your child to correct all quizzes and tests (even those on which they got an A!) It's important that they learn from their mistakes, identify misconceptions and make plans for improvement in the future.
- Many seniors run into time management problems, particularly as college applications are due and they are distracted by senior activities. Help them with their calendar (whether electronic or paper) and how to prioritize tasks.
- Encourage them to persevere despite difficulty. This might be the first course in which your child really has to struggle to master the material. Remember that it's better to learn how to struggle now than when they are off by themselves in college next year.
- Do not allow them to slack off during the spring semester. Senioritis often sets in once college acceptance letters go out. Remind them that you expect them to maintain the performance they have established during their first 3.5 years of high school. That spring semester DOES appear on their final transcript!
- Communicate! Talk to your child about how they are doing and what they might do to improve. Feel free to email me with questions and concerns. I have a parent email list that I send out regularly to let you know about upcoming class activities.

I work very hard to help all students master the concepts and skills of AP Calculus. Student success will depend on many factors, including previous math knowledge and personal motivation. With all of us (parent, child and teacher) working together, we can help to insure that your child has the very best possible learning experience this year.

Sincerely,

*Tess Rivero*, NBCT

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Mathematics Teacher & Department Chair