

## **Advice to Next Year's Precalc Honors Students (from Current Precalc Honors Students)**

### ***Student 1***

To take Pre-Calculus at the Honors level requires much more work than I was ready for coming into the class. To succeed in this class you need to put in the extra hours in the beginning to make sure you understand all of the concepts from previous algebra classes as well as the concepts taught at the beginning of the course, or you will be at a disadvantage for the rest of the year. Some tips I would give to facilitate a good start to the class would be to do more than the assigned homework (at least through the first few weeks), prepare for exit tickets just as much as you would a quiz, and put as much time possible into the practice tests. If this does not completely help you in the class, I would also highly recommend going in during office hours at lunch for extra help. For instance, in the first unit I had no idea how to complete the problems and had failed my first exit ticket as well as done poorly on my first quiz, but I went into office hours and in about fifteen minutes understood all of the concepts that I hadn't understood on the quiz. Finally, however overwhelming the workload or concepts may be for you, it is worth every minute, so don't drop the class just based on your grade after a few weeks because that is about the time it takes to adjust to the class. Good Luck.

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### ***Student 2***

The advice that I would give students taking Precalculus Honor next fall semester would be to be proactive. It is important to understand that more is expected with it being an honors course which means being proactive is very important. This means not only knowing past material, but also going in for office hours for help with any new material that may be troubling. While new material may not be troubling for some, it is important to understand that it is looked at in ways the book may not adequately explain. This proactivity extends to homework, where more than the required number of assigned problems may be needed to fully understand the material. While this amount of effort can be seen as excess by some, it is what is required to succeed in an honors level course.

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### ***Student 3***

Here are a few tips on how to excel in this math class. First of all, spend a good amount of time each night to actually do the homework and review. Especially focus on the review. If you do not go back over the concepts and understand what you are doing it will be easy to forget. Really try to get through any hard problems and do not just easily give up. If you just look at a

problem and don't try it you won't fully understand how to do the concept. Second, try and do a review of the past chapters every so often. The chapters really build on each other and require a complete understanding of the last ones to excel. Maybe do a few practice problems when you're done with other homework. Finally, don't expect this to be an easy course. It will be challenging. Try to always keep going even if you don't understand something, because usually it is a mental block and you really can do the problems and understand the concept if you really want to.

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#### ***Student 4***

My first piece of advice would be to never get discouraged. At the beginning of the year, I was struggling a lot and many of the concepts made little or no sense to me. I became very discouraged, began to give up, and started thinking about dropping the class. However, with hard work and effort I started to finally understand all of the concepts. So no matter how lost you may get, don't get discouraged and just keep working at it until you persevere. Second, I would recommend studying a lot for the tests. This year tests are worth much more than they were in the past and a good test grade is the key to receiving an A in the class. Good luck!

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#### ***Student 5***

Before you begin precalc honors, I would like to give you some advice. In precalc honors, get ready to hear a lot of mathematical jargon. So, be prepared to learn them, words like: asymptotic behavior, reflected, increases without bounds. You need to learn the mathematical jargon as the teacher does not enjoy hearing non-mathematical terms explaining math, which is right as speaking about math without mathematical jargon will make the statement vague and difficult to understand. The material by itself may seem daunting, but just pay attention in class. Always make sure you are able to see the board and projector and listen; you will find it satisfying as you begin to understand and be able to derive certain formulas rather than memorizing formulas. Also, make sure you have some time at home to learn the material from the book so that you can discuss it in class and because the material will not all be covered in class. You are left alone at times, which prepares you for higher education and is great development. Hopefully, you will see math in another light at the end of the year. That's all, go and learn math!