Math Study Strategies

Want some help studying for that math test? Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your math studying time.

− Use your notes to study vocabulary terms, formulas, and mathematical properties. Be sure to include example problems and solutions.
− Stay neat and organized when working through problems. The steps of a problem should be clear and easy to read.
− Review old homework assignments, paying extra attention to problems that were answered incorrectly. You don't want to make the same mistakes on the exam.
− Think about the possible test questions. Most math textbooks have a review at the end of each chapter. Practice solving problems from each section of the review, including word problems.
− Learn and understand how to use the formulas in a chapter. Applying a formula to a variety of problems is a good way to memorize it.
− Understand any new definitions or vocabulary words from the lesson.
− Become familiar with the calculator used in class. Use a similar one for homework assignments and on exams. Understanding how to use the calculator can make a difficult problem simpler and easier to solve.
− Draw diagrams to help visualize new concepts or complex problems.
− Study with a partner. Explain the steps needed to solve each type of problem. Discuss how the problems in a chapter are similar and different.
− Review the objectives at the beginning of a chapter or lesson. Practice solving the types of problems that meet the objectives.
− Review visuals, such as graphs, tables, and diagrams. Be able to identify important pieces of information and practice creating these visuals.

Here are some added tips to help you study for math tests:

− As you learn new material in class, take notes and work through the problems. You’ll use these when you study.
− If you are confused about anything, ask your teacher to explain it.
− Practice your math by doing your nightly homework.
− If your teacher gives you a study guide, use it. If not, make your own that includes any important formulas or example problems.
− Make sure you know math vocabulary, such as formula, factor, positive, negative, graph, and property.
− Use mnemonic devices to help you remember things. A mnemonic device can be words, phrases, or sentences. For example, many people use the mnemonic device
PEMDAS to remember the order of operations: parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction.

- Use repetition. Repeat steps and rewrite formulas. Using the same steps or formulas again and again will make problem solving easier to remember.