

# What To Do When My Child Needs Math Help

## Parent Resource Guide

### Homework Help

Math can be a tricky subject for some students. High school math classes typically assign between 30-45 minutes of homework a night. If your student is working in a distraction-free environment and spending more time than this, perhaps he/she is struggling with the concepts the homework addresses. If your child is having difficulties completing his/her math homework, please encourage them to take the following steps.

1. **Consult notes or work from class.** Students will work problems in class that are very similar to those assigned in homework. Review these notes or activities and use these as a guide for the process used. Try to follow the same steps.
2. **Review the section in the book.** Often the textbook includes explanations to examples which can also jump start students' thinking process or break the problem down step-by-step.
3. **Use digital resources online.** There are many websites which contain online videos or offer tutorials. [Khan Academy](#) or [Virtual Nerd](#) are great tools! Embrace technology and also the peer networks students naturally develop to see if a friend can explain the problem.

### Seeking Help from a Teacher

While it is our hope that all students become independent learners who know what to do when they are stuck, it's important to remember that they are not alone on this journey. Teachers are available to help students who are having difficulties. It's best to seek help from a teacher as soon as the struggle begins so the skill can be addressed before it is used or applied in future lessons.

- Many math teachers travel from classroom to classroom so many have their desks in the department office (351) and can typically be found before/after school. Contact the teacher to confirm their location.
- While teachers are available for help before and after school, other school activities or meetings do limit these offerings. Consult the teacher to check availability and schedule a time when the teacher can provide assistance.
- Encourage your student to try the above homework steps and come with a focus. When students can articulate a specific skill or problem they need help with, it helps focus the session and more time can be spent remediating actual problem, not diagnosing it.

### Tutors

Please understand that seeking help is not always a 1-1 tutoring session with your teacher. Other students also will have questions, especially around the time of a test. If you feel your student would benefit from a 1-1 tutor, we have some volunteer student tutors available and adult tutors for hire.

**Student tutors-** typically upperclassmen, NHS members, or those in our honors classes who are volunteering their time. There are flyers around the school and teachers have communicated the peer tutoring schedule with their classes. Feel free to ask their teacher or you can email Kerin Sancken, the Math Department Chair at [ksancken@hinsdale86.org](mailto:ksancken@hinsdale86.org) if you would like more information about our peer tutoring program.

**Adult tutors-** please email the department chair [ksancken@hinsdale86.org](mailto:ksancken@hinsdale86.org) for the most updated list of adult tutors for hire in the area.

**We hope these tips will be helpful as your student works through the mathematics curriculum at Hinsdale South. If you have any concerns about your son/daughter's progress, email or call your child's teacher.**