

How We Can Raise the Grade in Math

What **Mr. Carbajal** can do:

1. Encourage students to ask questions during every lesson.
2. Use in-class student work/practice to monitor and adjust instruction.
3. Use data from exams to reteach and retest.
4. Give multiple-choice weekly tests to help with test anxiety - students can see if their answers are present and whether or not they need to redo a problem.
5. Limit test questions to 20 - except for district finals.
6. Promptly post student scores so parents can monitor and intervene as needed.
7. Promptly return tests (answers included) so students can learn from their mistakes.
8. Consistently review - only change a few test questions each week.
9. Offer help/tutoring during PRIDE period.
10. Provide a clear/concise study guide for students to use to prepare for tests including the answers so that students can self-correct.
11. Create and post Youtube videos explaining how to do each problem from the study guides.
12. Avoid assigning excessive amounts of homework.
13. "Bottom out" failing test scores, never recording lower than a 50% for any test.
14. Offer extra credit in the form of Math passes.
15. Offer a grade-bump opportunity (students simply study for next test during PRIDE) for failing test scores.
16. Provide additional (optional) study guides for students/parents interested in more practice problems.
17. Adjust total points possible for any test that does not fall within a standard bell curve to raise the overall average score.

What **parents/guardians** can do:

1. Check student's grades online every Friday evening and address low test scores.
2. Teach the student that he/she is ultimately responsible for his/her grade and hold him/her accountable for their choices, study habits and efforts.

What **the student** can do:

1. Study notes (from the same day) for 5 minutes *before* starting homework/study guide.
2. Study for tests using the study guide provided for 15 - 30 minutes/night Monday through Thursday. Use the videos posted on Youtube when confused.
3. Come to PRIDE period intervention for extra help. This is **in addition to** the above-mentioned suggestions, **not** a replacement for them.

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Need More Practice?

- * Go over mistakes from previous test, which are returned the following school day with the answers included. Do each missed problem 3 times correctly.
- *Practice the problems from their notes from the previous week.
- *Practice corresponding book problems - odd answers in the back. Section numbers are found in Mr. C's calendar on the website.
- *Complete the "optional" extra practice study guide found for some classes on Mr. Carbajal's webpage.

Helpful Test Information

Students are given a cumulative test every Friday. They receive a study guide that is nearly identical to the test the previous Monday - this also serves as their homework. A video is posted online each week explaining how to do the problems – search for “Mr. Carbajal,” “TMS,” “8th Grade Math,” “study guide _____” and look for the Bobcat icon. There is also a link on Mr. Carbajal's web page. Also, on that web page there will be a link for additional/optional practice problems. Since all the tests are cumulative, absent students are excused from any single missed test. However, students that miss two tests in-a-row and are expected to make up the most recent test within a week.