

## *Learning to Learn*

I occasionally get messages from concerned parents regarding their child's performance in their math class. It seems to them that their child is working hard and yet still not doing well on quizzes and tests. This can be very frustrating for the student as well as for the parents. To respond to this concern, I've put together this explanation. I have shared this with my students.

The Key to Success: Preparation determines performance.

Important: Time on task and effort given to practice **aid** preparation, but they do not insure adequate preparation.

How to Prepare:

- A) Study the material
  - Study your notes from class, review the examples presented in class, and study the textbook section covering the material.
  - There are many ways to study. All of your teachers and many parents have worked with their students explaining these various methods. Figure out which methods of studying works best for you!
  
- B) Practice the material
  - Do enough practice to insure that the material has been learned. The assigned work should be enough to adequately practice the material.
  - If you are not sure about how to do something on the assigned work, ask for help.
  
- C) Don't skip formative assessment
  - Check your practice work **as you do it** for accuracy. If your practice work is correct, great...you would seem to have a good grasp of the material. But, if your practice work is not correct, you have not yet learned the material. Return to Step A and start again.
  - If you have questions or don't understand why your answers are incorrect, ask for help.

Many students have learned how to learn. Others are beginning to learn. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, some students just haven't decided that it is for them yet. Success in school will follow as soon as the student *Learns how to Learn*.