

Why do I work hard to teach my classes well and be in class every day?

Because I have the utmost respect for the students who want to learn math. They deserve lessons that I have planned carefully and modified over the years with examples that will help them learn the concepts deeply and remember them so they can be applied in other courses and on tests such as the ACT.

Because I know that students who are good at math have more self-confidence and will have an advantage when they go to college and when they encounter math in other courses and in their daily life. I have benefitted from this in my own life, and I can help others benefit from it as well.

Why do I expect the students to work hard to learn and to come to class every day?

Because by working hard and coming every day, they can show respect for me and the work I have done to present a high quality lesson in class. The first step to learning math is to apply yourself by coming to class when it is being taught. I accept that there will be days which both the students and I will be gone. There are activities and illnesses which will not allow us to be in class some days. On my part, I will not have anyone else teach my class unless there is an emergency which keeps me from teaching for multiple days.

In the same way, I expect the students attend my class unless they have activities, family situations in which they are needed, need to attend appointments that cannot be at other times, or are too ill. I consider it disrespectful on their part to miss class when they truly know they could be there.

Students know when they can be in class, when they can't, and when they are choosing not to be in class but could be. I will do my best to help students outside of class time when they need to miss class, but I will always consider whether the student needed to miss class or not when I set aside time to teach them the lesson they chose to not attend.