

**TIP SHEET #9:**

## **What *Parents* Need to Do for Math Success**

It's a team effort: math homework is math practice.

- **Read the material from the teacher of each class your teen is in.** At the start of each school year, a ton of information comes home in binders and backpacks. Say: "What did you bring home that I should read?" Read it carefully, even though your teen may not offer it to you.
- **Parents are instrumental for success in math – without even tackling the subject matter.** Poor performance in a math class is usually not related to not understanding math. Not practicing with homework assignments or not correctly practicing for tests is more likely the problem.
- **Ask to see their work every night.** If you make it policy in your house for the math book and work to come home every night, you get a good grip on the amount and quality of math work. You won't have to deal with: "We don't have any homework tonight," or "I forgot my book."
- **Don't try to teach your teen the way you did it in school.** Math teachers today are very picky about the process, the steps, and doing it their own way. Teens get frustrated and want to quit if you impose your old-school math learning on them.
- **Consider a grade book at home to keep track of grades and points.** Let your teen be in charge of this, and don't hover. Match your log with the online grades from the teacher. This is a visual tool you can both see, and a sense of accomplishment grows as grades come in.
- **If you have questions about how things are coming along, don't hesitate to email the teacher.** Phone calls are less effective, as the teacher is in front of students all day and can't get to the phone. Email is much better.
- **Take time with your teen every evening at the beginning of the school year, and you'll pave the way** for better grades and self-confidence in the future.