

Running Start, understanding concepts, attendance.

①

An Nguyen

16 March 2023

Future Students

Dusty's Class

Dear Future Students of Dusty,

Hello, my name is An Nguyen and I'm a senior from Foster High School. I'm currently here at Highline pursuing an AA focused in Computer Science under the Running Start program. In the future, I hope to pursue a bachelor's in the same field. A bit about me, in my free time, I love to either hang out with friends, play the guitar, play video games, and watch any movies or shows. For the guitar, I don't like strumming too much, I mainly prefer fingerstyle where the individual strings are plucked with your fingers to play. As for games, I haven't been playing too much recently, but when I do it's typically Overwatch 2. Moving on, one of my favorite movies right now is How to Train Your Dragon.

One challenge that I came across during the quarter was not fully understanding the problems I did. This didn't happen often, but when it did, I would essentially only understand how to do it and nothing else. Not the why or what. This would often lead to poor understanding of the topic itself and its applications and make memorization more difficult. Throughout the quarter, I've found that understanding the fundamentals of a topic makes memorization, and therefore assessments, 10 times easier. After all, why memorize how to solve one type of question when you could instead memorize how to solve every type of question?

The biggest piece of advice that I can give is to make sure you watch the videos of the next topic before class. Trust me when I say that coming into class with no idea of what the topic is on can make the hour of class feel very long and boring. For the times where you feel too lazy to watch it, try your best to fight it. The reward of coming in ready with questions will make it all worth it. You'll understand and enjoy the class so much more too.

The flipped class structure is very interesting. At first, it seems very counter-intuitive to learn the content outside and then do practice in class, but I think it ended up working very well for me. Especially since I was able to decide whether I needed the extra practice by being able to see what the topic was on the day before. My lazy self is very grateful for Dusty's attendance system because I was able to skip all the practice days I knew I didn't need. Whenever I did need it though, collaborating in groups to figure out problems was very fun and made problem-solving entertaining for me. I always walked out the door feeling confident in that day's section.

Really the only challenge that I experienced to the structure was my laziness. The videos can sometimes be very long and thus I'd end up procrastinating it often. This would only negatively affect me as I'd walk into class very lost. I highly recommend keeping up with videos to avoid

this. Besides my personal challenge, I don't think I noticed any challenges in the class's fundamental structure.

Please remember that no matter how difficult this class or quarter is for you, it will always get better no matter what. Make use of the resources around you. You're surrounded by brilliant and communicative people, and some of them have most likely offered up to host study groups as well. If you need it, use them. There is never shame in seeking help. I personally think that those who ask for help will be more successful than those who do not. Besides, you might make a couple of friends and those are always nice to have.

That is all that I have for you today, remember that you got this and don't be afraid to reach out.

Sincerely,
An

Discussion Seminar 8 - Letter To A Future Student

Elizabeth Ma

Dear Future Student,

My name is Elizabeth, I'm a first year Running Start student pursuing the AS-T Track-2 Computer Science degree. Although I am trying to get this degree I have no clue what I want to do for a career, I hope I can figure it out soon. I am planning on transferring to a University for the Fall of 2024 after I graduate. I have one younger brother and I swim every day for two and a half hours. This was an easy schedule to manage with high school classes, but now I have to either choose between getting 7-8 hours of sleep or completing my homework.

It was challenging at first to find everything, since the resources were on Dusty's homepage, not Canvas, it took some getting used to, but I adjusted. If you ever have any questions, always ask on slack or Dusty, there are many difficult topics and questions on the homework and others probably are struggling with the same thing, so it's good to ask for help and is the key to be successful in calculus 3.

If for any reason you have to miss an assessment, Dusty is very understanding and will be more than willing to talk with you to find something that works. Assessments every week help keep you on track, but are different from most classes you've taken. Look through the lecture notes and the easier-mid level HW problems to study for these assessments, as the questions will be quite similar. Don't procrastinate on the HW because even though you could wait until the last day to complete it the first few weeks it will create bad habits for when the HW's get harder and you won't be able to finish it all in one day by yourself.

This new class flipped model might be weird at first to get used to, but it's actually very helpful to work through problems with peers and teach each other. Also it's very important to put aside enough time to watch the lecture and take notes, that way you're prepared for the problems for group work in class and don't get even more behind. I recommend doing it as early as possible the day before class, to focus on other work later and not accidentally forget. Advice I have is that even though it can be tough to watch the hour-long lectures, take notes, do the work for other classes, and manage responsibilities it's worth it to get a better understanding of the material.

Overall Dusty is a great instructor that will make you feel welcomed and creates a math community. The time and dedication needed to be put into this class is worth it, and there are many extra credit opportunities (if Dusty makes a mistake you could earn extra credit for spotting it). I believe in you, you can do this!

Prem Subedi

Math 163 Siminar

Hello, My name is Prem Subedi . I am studying Computer Science and Sociology at Highline. I intend to transfer to University of Washington or Central Washington University next year. I am a person with Disabilities. That is why I am studying sociology to understand why the problem in society exists. My hobbies are urban design, public transit, and gaming. I spent a lot of time researching random things. I am trying to get into my city board because you can make the most impact by getting involve in a local government. I believe that we need to create a society where everyone has to succeed in the world.

The most challenging thing that I face this quarter is the time management issue. Is it very hard and challenging to acknowledge the fact that you're so behind. Talking to your professor about it will be helpful because it will motivate you to tackle itpr easily and give you a better solution.

My advice to future dusty class is try to watch those videos beforehand because the class is so engaging and interactive, it will be way easier to understand the concept. I also advise you to visit MRC and MESA, it can be so helpful even if you don't neet help, because it is great place study and community is super helpful there

The good thing about the flipped class model is that it helps you to better engage with class material and learn by working with teammates. I found even if you forget to watch the video prior to coming to classes, it is worth it to still attend the class because you learn by working together. You will do great in this class, stay on top of material and just enjoy.

don't be afraid, high school vs. college, good instructor
Apps! calendar. (4)

Dear Future Students of Dusty,

My name is Imogene Frederick and I am a previous student in Dusty's Calculus 3 course. If this goes the same as it did for my class, and you're anything like me, you're reading through a few letters hoping for some good news about how easy this class is going to be or just trying to answer those discussion questions because it's pretty much a free grade as long as you bring something in. Either way, when it was me reading the old letters I did not get what I was hoping for and I remember some rather intimidating stories about needing to devote your entire life to math. After taking the course, however, I can say that, in my experience at least, you have nothing to fear.

For some context, I am 19 years old at the time of writing this and this was my second quarter at Highline. I graduated from high school in 2022 and after taking a year long calculus class with a laid back high school teacher I was hit with a hard slap of reality in college courses with my calculus 2 class. I am not sure of any of your experiences, but I had calculus 2 with an instructor named Jason Ramirez, and his class was rigid to say the least. Very traditional, class time was lectures, homework was done on paper and handed in the morning it was due. Going from a year long calculus class where a full page of notes were allowed on each test, to being expected to have everything memorized and new topics learned everyday, was hard on me and I barely passed the class by the skin of my teeth with a 2.0. Previously I had been an A student with math as my strongest subject so it was a major knock to my confidence. I am aiming to get an Associated Science degree and transfer to UW Seattle for engineering, so failing at math just wasn't an option. All I could do was hope for calculus 3 to be better, and it didn't take long in Dusty's class to realize that it was. Now I can't say

whether it's the course material, maybe I am just far better at vectors, partial derivatives, and power series than I was at the integrals and derivatives from calculus 2, or whether it's the instructor that made the difference.

Dusty is the best instructor I have had in my college experience thus far (and if he is reading this I've only had three in-person instructors in college before so it's not that big of a compliment). I personally have really appreciated his class structure, and while watching the note videos on my own took up more time than having lectures in class, I think it was worth it for the addition of group work. I enjoyed being able to interact with my peers, and working together with classmates, even when you're all confused, is more helpful than you might think. I will admit that at first I was disheartened by the seemingly disorganized nature of the class. I mean there's four different sites to use and canvas isn't even one of them. I am a freak for organization and in the beginning all I could see was a mess of different assignments and websites with unclear navigation, but I promise you that you will fall into a routine. This bit is some tips, assuming he hasn't made big changes to his layout: First - Canvas is purely for looking at your grades. There are no assignments on there and unless he says otherwise, it's a waste to check on. Second - if you have a smartphone (and it will be so helpful if you do so I really hope you do), download the gradescope app. It is possible to do without it, their website is easy to use, but gradescope is where you submit pictures of your notes each week and screenshots of your slack activity, so getting images from your phone to computer to then submit is way too much work and I highly suggest the app. Third - print out the calendar! Or keep it bookmarked to your computer. This is hands down the most

convenient source of information you will get on assignment due dates, what sections are on each test, and what each day is going to look like.

I know this letter is getting kind of long, but I have just a few more things to say. Class wise: go to the study groups if possible. Even if it wasn't extra credit, definitely a good idea to try it out and see if it works for you. Also, try your best to stay on top of the lecture videos. It can be a lot and some nights you just can't take the notes, it's not the end of the world, but like most college work, it can pile up and it's hard to not fall into a pattern of late work or missing assignments. That being said, Dusty really is an amazing teacher. More than anything he wants you to succeed, and not just in his class, but anywhere you are. He is understanding and flexible and kind; never be afraid to ask for help or talk to him about anything.

I don't know who's reading this, but I know that whoever you are, you got this! Seriously, life can suck and school can suck and work can suck, but never to a point of no return. Good luck and I hope when it is your turn to write this letter you have good things to say!

Sincerely, Imogene <3

nathinking major, asking for help, taking notes, calendar!
long videos, did not like flipped model.

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Dear Future Students of Dusty's Class:

Hello! My name is Czjaka Jorgensen. When I originally put this class into my CTClick "shopping cart," I was majoring in Physics; after my last quarter though, I found that while physics still interested me, I had begun to hate the subject because of the class. The course went just a little bit too fast for me, and at the end of the quarter, while I ended the class with a C+, I felt that I didn't understand the subject well enough to continue with it, at least for now. Backstory aside, I haven't changed my major from an Associates of Science yet, but I am not quite sure what I want to do - if even an AS. I've had to let go of the idea of being able to get my Associates at the same time I graduate, because being a 17-year-old Senior, I still have a lot more time to decide what I want to do with my life, even if I didn't think I did. Running Start has opened up a lot of opportunities for me, but at the same time, I think I let it convince me that I also had now a responsibility to achieve everything that there was a possibility to achieve; letting go of this self-inflicted pressure has put a lot less stress on me, and helped ease up my last two quarters. Starting this quarter, I decided to just start taking classes that sounded interesting to me, hoping that something stuck; I even became open to the idea that it didn't have to be a STEM field, even though I'd already put all this time and work towards achieving an AS.

While this quarter was easier for me than my last, I still grappled with some genuine challenges, mainly in Dusty's teaching methods and organization. Dusty is a very nice guy, and a funny one at that; while he makes class enjoyable with his personality and daily ice-breakers before class, the way he's laid out his material, and the method by which he decided we'd learn, I think leaves a lot to be desired (I will go over this more in the next segment). To get through this, I had to put a lot more effort than I had before into understanding topics - don't get me wrong, I have always put a lot of effort into learning and participating in class, but I had to add an extra layer of "gusto" into this one, for lack of a better word. I think the biggest thing I did that tackled a large portion of this challenge was communicating with my peers; asking for help. I'm not the kind of person who likes to ask for help - I don't like to feel like the weakest link. However, there are several homework assignments I would've never completed without the help of my classmates. I only made it through this quarter by asking for help, and being able to rely on people. Now, keep in mind that this does not mean you can't put in any effort yourself; trying your best is still essential, you cannot depend on others to solve every problem for you. However, when you've exhausted your other resources - group work notes from class, YouTube videos, anything else you can think of outside of threatening a bystander to do your homework for you - it's in your best interest to ask for help. I'd suggest asking your peers for help first, and then if they haven't gotten back to you as quickly as you need, or you still need more help, I'd contact the Professor - more on this in the next part.

To be successful in Dusty's class, you've got to heed what I've already mentioned, from trying your best, to asking for help. To expand even more upon those topics though,

trying your best does not mean working yourself until you have a breakdown; I've done that many times, and it does a lot more harm than good. Some good advice that I've heard is that if a problem is taking you more than 15-30 minutes to figure out, it's time to ask for help. Of course, there are a lot of resources online about the subjects we're going over, from online forums to YouTube tutorials, but I understand that sometimes nothing helps quite like having your exact problem explained to you. As I mentioned previously, while your classmates should be the first people you contact for help, if your peers aren't getting back to you in the time you need, or you just need some further clarification, I encourage asking the Professor for help as well. Now, while Dusty does give good explanations, there are times he won't get back to until 24 hours or more has gone by; sometimes he won't even respond to you. So, if you are contacting Dusty for some help, make sure the assignment isn't due that night, or that he's not your very last resource (though I understand that sometimes you will have literally no other resources to try, in which case, all you can do is wait and hope). Aside from those two things I've already mentioned, to succeed in Dusty's class, I would greatly recommend watching the videos before class; it will make the group work you'll do every day a lot smoother. Also, a bonus to watching the videos is that you'll have filled out the notes – these notes are incredibly helpful for understanding the subject matter, and were a constant resource to me while completing the homework; I always found the examples in the notes the most helpful. In preparing for assessments, I think it's best to look over all the homework for the units it goes over, of course, but also make sure you look over the notes, and the solutions for the group work you've done in class – you can find it on Dusty's website, and it's incredibly helpful. Lastly, I would like to give you all my most important piece of advice for surviving this class; look at the class calendar **FREQUENTLY** – download it to your desktop so you've got constant access to it, if you can. Dusty does not know his own schedule a lot of the time, and doesn't give very frequent reminders for things – there is not a single assignment that is due on Canvas, and they're all spread around about 4 different websites; in other words, it can be difficult to keep track of everything that's due. However, the calendar – which can be found on his website – keeps track of every single assignment's due date, and will inform you of what we'll be going over in class each day. If I didn't have the class calendar, I would've missed the due dates for a lot of assignments, as well as what topics the assessments were going over.

I honestly really did not like the flipped class form of teaching, in that we effectively taught ourselves everything unless we had a question. We watched videos that were generally anywhere from 45 to an hour and 10 minutes long, and then came to class to work on associating problems with our peers – I can understand the benefit of creating a sort of camaraderie with our classmates by working together to solve problems, and it may make us more likely to create study groups, or at least ask each other for help, but we have discussions with each other every Friday for 25-30 minutes, so I really don't think doing group work for almost an hour every class except Thursdays is that beneficial. On the other hand, given that class is not just a lecture, the 50 minutes of class time does go by fairly quickly, and is not too boring. Overall though, the method by which we learned and were taught in that class was pretty challenging for me – watching a video that was often over an

hour long before class every day to understand a subject was difficult for me, because I zone out, or have a question about the content, which I can't ask to a recording. Also, struggling with a group to figure something out can often confuse/discourage me more than if I'd just tried it a few times myself, and then had someone who understood it explain it to me, or give me a hint.

At the end of the day though, you're here, and you're taking this class. Calculus 3 is a difficult subject, but it's completely survivable. If you put in the work to watch the videos before class every day, take notes, ask for help, and give yourself a few days to study for the assessments, you'll do pretty well in this class. There are going to be a few subjects, especially near the end of the quarter, that are confusing, but you can get through them. While you should be expecting a challenge from this course, it's a challenge that you can easily dominate if you put your skills to the test. I wish you all the luck in the world on your future endeavors.

-Czjaka Jorgensen

1st in-person class, procrastination, long videos, study groups,

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Dear future calculus 3 students,

My name is Andy Luu and I am a mechanical engineering major. Taking this class in Winter 2023 would be my first ever in-person class since the pandemic. Yes, this is quite the long coming. I am a senior in the Running Start program about to graduate high school in the spring and attend UW Seattle in the fall. In middle and high school I thought I was on the smarter side when it came to math but realized during college that it is quite a bit harder especially when you teach yourself.

But this quarter was slightly different, with it being my first class back, I realized that it wasn't so bad and I could be comfortable enough to take another class back in person. I did far better than I thought I would've done for being back for the first time. But that doesn't mean that there were some struggles, this quarter Dusty decided to do things differently where we watched videos before the class started about the topic and do group work on practice problems so that we have an easier time when we get around to starting the homework. Now the challenges were the motivation to watch every video before class, procrastination really took over, especially when there would be over hour-long videos back to back.

The advice I would give for being successful in this class is to go to the study groups where you can find a group of people you can work with and to try not to fall behind on the videos. When going to the study groups I found some people I thought I would never talk to and created a nice and friendly bond over learning math. I also don't want to forget to mention that you get 2 extra credit points toward your second-lowest assessment score which is capped out at 12 total points. I can't stress enough how important it is to not fall behind on videos because it's like a domino effect, because when you miss one day, that means u have to watch 2 videos in a row to be back up to speed with the class's pace.

I wanted to lastly state that Calculus is not an easy class and this third class is no exception so if you are struggling but trying your best you shouldn't worry and keep pushing. If

you see a low score on one or a few of your tests just know that you are most likely not the only one and that shouldn't define your abilities as a student or a person. Dusty is a very approachable teacher which makes it easy to ask questions and explanations if needed so you should feel free to ask him anything. As we speak, we are less than 5 days til the final and the topic of the power series is still a blur but I know I got this and you will as well!

Running Start, procrastination, didn't like flipped model

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Letter To Future Student

Hello, I'm Lucas Lone, and I'm a Running Start student at Highline College. I'm currently going for my AA transfer degree and plan to major in computer science at UW Bothell. A little bit about me is that I'm a huge basketball fan (NBA, NCAA) and like playing games online with friends.

Honestly, this class wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. The assessments were straightforward, and you don't need to memorize all the difficult derivatives and antiderivatives to pass. I would say the toughest challenge I had to face this quarter was completing the homework on time. I would always put it off and wait until the last day to finish the homework.

My main advice would be to complete the homework early to get extra credit and don't procrastinate on the lecture videos. There have been many times where I'm multiple lecture videos behind and have to watch all of the lecture videos in one day to catch up. It's painful and you shouldn't do it.

This quarter, instead of Dusty doing lectures in class, he decided to change the format and have us watch the videos online and do group work in person. Personally, I wasn't a big fan of this format switch because we would have to watch lectures outside of class, and I tend to procrastinate a lot. Most people probably found this format switch better but personally I didn't really like it.

Overall, I thought the class was pretty good. I would recommend creating study groups or finding someone that you can work with. It's always nice to have at least one person you can talk to. Good luck with the class!

understanding concepts, study groups, MRC, easy homework

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Dear future students,

My name is Andy Huynh and I'm a high school senior that is currently doing running start. I am currently trying to complete my associate degree at highline, but at the end of the year, I will be pursuing higher education at the University of Washington. At university, I plan to complete my prerequisites for engineering and major in materials science engineering. As for myself personally, I am someone who enjoys working out and spending time with my friends and family.

This quarter, I faced a few challenges both personally and academically. Due to my courses and workload, balancing my academic work and personal life was not an easy task. However, I found that prioritizing my time and setting small goals for myself helped me stay focused on and organized throughout the quarter. Another challenge I found myself facing was understanding the different math concepts and remembering all the formulas. At first, I thought that if I was able to solve a problem, then I didn't need to do any more work with it. To my surprise, if I really wanted to understand a topic, I had to analyze everything and make sure I knew the how's, what's, and why's of getting my answer. It wasn't a one-time thing either, I found if I put in the effort and take the time to fully understand the problem, I understood more in class.

For those taking a class taught by Dusty, I would advise them to stay on top of their work and be proactive in seeking help whenever needed. Additionally, they should make the most of the resources available to them, such as office hours and tutoring services. One thing that helped me throughout the quarter were the study groups led by different students. My friends that I carpooled with were the leaders of the study group, so after class, I would go with them to the MRC (math resource center) and we would all learn from each other. Sometimes each of us spent time doing our own work, while other times, we would all work together to figure out how to solve a problem. The study groups helped my understanding of the class as well as the peers around me.

One of the good parts of the flipped class model is that it allows students to work at their own pace and take ownership of their learning. The problems we did in class correlated to the homework problems, so it was easy doing parts of the homework after we learned how to do them in class. The flipped model also provides an opportunity for students to engage in collaborative learning. However, it can be challenging for students who struggle with self-discipline or need more guidance in their studies due to the fact that a lot of the learning was spent outside of class.

I know that sometimes things might get overwhelming or too much to handle, but I would encourage students to reach out. It can be anyone, not only the teacher. You have a wide range of resources and support opportunities available to you at highline. The first step in learning is to have that willingness to learn and wanting to know more.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,

Andy Huynh

Sports, heavy load, do the work



Hello Future Students,

My name is Lamia Djuderija, and I am taking Calculus 3 (Math 163) with Dusty Wilson this quarter. I am currently working on my AA (associate of arts) before I pursue my bachelors degree of bioengineering at the University of Washington, on the pre-med track. I am a second year running start student and attend Foster High School. I participate in multiple sports including basketball, cross country, and track & field; however, basketball is definitely my main sport. Another thing about me is I love spending time with family and friends even if it is something as simple as sharing a meal together. As for school, I have always been an “overachiever” who wants everything to be perfect; but I am also a procrastinator, and the two don’t really work well together.

I faced different challenges this quarter, but the one that affected me the most was trying to take on too many things at once. I was participating in sports and trying to make time for family and friends, while taking biology, chemistry, and calculus. It was difficult, but I made it through by being extremely disciplined and prioritizing.

A piece of advice I would give for being successful in a class taught by Dusty is to actually do what is given to you; meaning watch the lecture videos, complete the notes, etc. But also, just simply communicating with Dusty. He is very understanding and always willing to help if someone has a question, don’t be afraid to reach out.

A good part of the flipped class model was working together with others and helping one another. Something that made it challenging was keeping up with the day to day work/lectures, but just remember to stay on top of your work.

Don’t stress too much, you got this! The amount of effort and work you put in will reflect the grade you earn, so just try your best.

Have a great quarter,

Lamia Djuderija

procrastination, working, study groups, videos, extra credit

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Dear Future students,

My name is Kamal Johnson and technically as of right now, I am a junior here at Highline College majoring in Electrical Engineering. Right now I'm currently taking this class, (Calculus 3) but also Physics 201 and Differential equations. Life right now is pretty stressful but that's only because I have finals to prepare for in a few days. Other than that life is pretty good. Outside of school, I am a server at Point Ruston in Tacoma, and balancing that and school isn't the easiest job in the world.

For me personally, the toughest challenge I've faced and continue to face this quarter is my time management. What I mean by that specifically is the school work that's due on a certain day. I wait till the last minute to finish it. I've always struggled with procrastination but believe me when I tell you. This quarter was bad! And for someone that's taking 3 pretty hard classes all at one time, this was not the route to success. On top of all that, I was not only taking these classes in one quarter, but my calculus class and differential equations class happened to fall at the same time and days they were scheduled, so if I attended one class I would be missing the other. At the beginning of the quarter, I thought I could pull it off, but I should've known better based on the kind of person I am. I'm not telling you to not take three 5 credit stem classes at once, but please please please make sure they do not overlap each other. And if you do, do it, just take a few days to think about the type of work ethic you have and if you are one to ask for help when needed.

Honestly, It is possible because hey if I'm still here writing this and getting ready to take this final and finish the quarter strong then I believe you can do it too. Couple of pointers for you if you are going this route and might run into situations where you have to take three or four, 5 credited classes at once. 1) Get to know your instructor and their class routine at the beginning of the quarter. 2) Form a study group, don't wait till the 4th week for dusty to assign you to study groups. 3) If you have any questions at all, regarding math, physics, chem, etc. ask your classmates or go to your instructors' office hours.

Specifically, if you want to become successful when taking one of Dusty's classes, my number one recommendation is to always come to class prepared. What I mean by that is watch the videos before class, maybe watch 2 videos ahead, or even 3. Just come to class with filled-in notes and questions about the material/homework. Another piece of advice. DO THE WEBASSIGN HOMEWORK EARLY... Dusty gives you free extra credit points if you do the assignment early. I recommend making your calendar and marking every webassign homework due 1 day before the actual due date, so no matter what you're always getting those extra points ;) Also, weekly quizzes are a huge portion of your grade so don't take those lightly. You almost want to quiz yourself every day (write down a few practice problems or short questions after class then the next day see if you can answer those questions correctly).

The good part about the "flipped class model" is the freedom to learn on your own and work the problems out yourself. by doing the practice problems in class helps you get to engage with the material. Of course Dusty is still going to be there when help is needed. if you ever get stuck.

Dusty does a good job of leading you to the right path to get your answer. I'd say the most challenging part for me was coming to class unprepared, what I mean by that is I happened to forget to watch the video on that chapter before coming to class. I felt so lost whenever that happened so that's why I highly recommend staying on top of those videos!

Other than that, Don't forget to have a little fun during this time, a lot of it's going to seem challenging and stressful but remember to not be so hard on yourself. Just think of how far you've come to get to where you are now. Don't be afraid to make friends with those around you in class, all of you are in the same boat. Why not "struggle" or better yet succeed together!

Hello future students,

My name is Tin Tran, I'm not planning to get a degree at Highline, however, I will be attending UW Seattle where I'll be majoring in computer science. I started Running Start in the fall of 2022, I'm a current senior and Running Start student at Foster High School. I've always loved technology and software so I decided to focus mainly on computer science at Highline, taking prerequisite courses for UW CS. I've always wanted to be a software engineer growing up, and being able to take classes at Highline to learn more about computer science has opened my eyes to the world of programming. Just recently, I've gotten accustomed to Highline and college in general. However, I still procrastinate and manage my time poorly. This quarter, I spent more time doing classwork than in my previous quarters, and I started making an effort to learn the material, but, it wasn't easy teaching myself. Eventually, I started leaning on my peers to help me through the class, asking questions, and getting help in study groups or outside of class. As for personal struggles, I was busy with sports and extracurriculars, so managing my time correctly was hard, as I didn't have as much time in the afternoon. My advice to be successful in this class is, you have to understand the underlying concept for each section. Don't just chug in numbers for formulas, really understand each step and why it's important. Focus on the why and then the how. Dusty's class requires you to ask questions, and don't be afraid to ask if you need help understanding something from the notes, whiteboards, homework, or videos. As for the flipped class model, it was a good way to get students to do notes and learn the material. Doing groups in class was very helpful as I could look towards my peers for help and explain any questions I had. One challenge about this was that I had to learn everything myself, I didn't find the notes too helpful, and searched the web to learn. Nonetheless, If you dedicate time to

this class you will pass. Learning the concepts and studying properly will put you in a position to succeed.

Sincerely,

Tin Tran

immigrant, hard to adjust to structure.

(12)

Hello Everyone,

My name is John Anthony Mart Diego. You can call me John. I am currently in a second year of college, majoring in Computer Science. I am from the Philippines, and I migrated around October 2018. My hobbies are building Gunpla model kits, playing arcade, and riding my bike around Des Moines Marina. When I first attended the class, I wasn't used to the group work and quizzes every Friday. As I attend the class more frequently, I got used to this approach of learning. I made it through by doing my assignments early and taking notes from top to bottom. An advice that I would give is always prepare before the assessment, use the assignments and notes to help you prepare. If you get stuck, ask Mr. Dusty for help. He does his best to guide you through the complicated world of Calculus 3. The good part of the flipped class model is that you can collaborate with your colleagues, and help you through understanding the concepts and formulas. The only downside is the timeframe, where you have to take notes for the next lesson before the class. As for my encouragement, just keep pushing through and let God strengthen you to persevere through the college life.

new study habits, time management, study groups,
ask questions, liked groups but long videos.

(13)

Dear future math student,

My name is Di Ramirez-Diaz and I am a Running Start student and a senior at Foster High school. I'm majoring in Computer Engineering and once I graduate, I will be attending the University of Washington. Outside of school, some of my hobbies include playing video games, playing music, and lifting weights. Some of my favorite games are Super Smash Bros. and FIFA23.

Before the quarter started, I thought that this would be the most challenging quarter of my college career. While it was challenging, it definitely went smoother than expected. Aside from Calculus III, I'm also taking Physics 202 and Technical Writing. This class wasn't necessarily my biggest concern for the quarter, but I was worried about the combination of math and physics, especially since I'd heard that 202 was the hardest in the series. In order to be successful throughout the whole quarter, I had to learn some new study habits and improve on what skills I already had. The most helpful one is time management. I found it helpful to take a look at assignments due during the week and plan out a weekly schedule in order to get everything done on time. Another thing that definitely helped was having a study group. I had the opportunity to lead a study group and while I was helping others, it helped me improve my own abilities because I was able to practice more of the material outside of my own assignments.

A piece of advice that I would give to students would be to not be afraid to ask questions.

Sometimes you might feel like you're asking a "dumb" question, but a lot of the time, many other students are wondering the same thing. And along with questions, it's important to ask for

help when you need it. It's better to spend the time after or during class to go over material than stressing over it when an assessment is coming up.

I really like the way the class was formatted because it encouraged students to take initiative and be confident in their abilities by having us write out our work on the boards for our group to see. I think that this format was one of the biggest reasons I have been successful in class. Lectures often get boring and they don't give us a lot of opportunities to ask questions and practice what we learn. While I liked the model, I sometimes had difficulties trying to find the time to watch the lecture videos, especially since some were over an hour long.

All in all, this class may seem intimidating, but there isn't any need to worry. It's true that it's challenging, but there are many resources available to you if you need them. It's important to remember that if you can be successful if you put in the effort.

naps! working, website, assessments important, liked the group work,

Truong 1

(14)

Hello to future students of Dusty. My name is Bao Truong, and I'm studying Computer Science. I'm almost done with my second year as a running start student and I'm also a senior at Foster High School. Technology is something that truly excites me, and I'm currently working hard to finish my Computer Science prerequisites and hopefully get into the University of Washington. When I'm not studying, you can usually find me playing video games or hanging out with my buddies. This quarter, I've been enjoying taking power naps whenever I can!

One of the biggest hurdles I faced this quarter was managing a demanding schedule. Although I only had three classes - Calculus 3, Technical Writing, and CSCI 102 - they required a lot of time and effort to understand the concepts thoroughly. Adding to the challenge was the fact that I was working during the quarter, which made my schedule feel overwhelming at times. I knew that I needed to do well in my classes, so I decided to move my work shifts to the weekends and prioritize my studies during the weekdays. Despite the difficulty, I found that the class structure was straightforward to follow. Watching the videos before class helped me grasp the materials more easily, and attending study sessions and interacting with my classmates gave me more confidence.

If you are a future student of Dusty's, my best advice would be to make the most of the resources that he provides. Dusty's website is an excellent source of videos, notes, answer keys, office hours, and much more, so be sure to check it out regularly, even if you can't attend class in person. I found myself going through the website 1-3 times a day to look for resources to help me. Additionally, I would recommend prioritizing your performance on the assessments, as they carry significant weight, with 8-10 of them throughout the course. Looking back, I wish I had known this earlier, as some of the earlier assessments were relatively easy, and I could have done better if I had focused more on them.

This quarter, Dusty made a significant change to the way he conducts classes. Instead of the traditional lectures and note-taking, he now focuses on in-class activities where we work on

homework problems together in groups, with Dusty available to assist if needed. I found the old lectures to be tedious and ineffective in helping me understand the concepts. However, with these new activities, I have been more engaged and proactive in my learning. I have found that I learn better by doing things, and being able to ask questions about specific problems has been incredibly helpful. While it was a bit awkward at first, as the quarter progressed, I grew to enjoy these activities to the point where it was a primary reason why I looked forward to attending class every day.

I strongly believe in the philosophy of XQC, a well-known Twitch streamer, who says that "the result is irrelevant if the effort was there." Throughout the quarter, I made sure to put in extra time to study before each assessment, knowing how important they were. Even if I didn't get the best score, I kept reminding myself of the effort I put in and considered it a success. If you ever feel overwhelmed, remember that Dusty is an accommodating professor, and there are plenty of resources available to help you out. You are not alone in this academic journey, and with hard work and determination, anything is possible. Best of luck to you!

Hello folks in future class,

I am Minh Nguyen, a Vietnamese immigrant, Running Start from Foster HS in this winter quarter and this is my 2nd quarter at Highline. It came to my attention that the majority of my friends think that I am a Computer Science major, but not, I am just interested in math and don't have any particular major to study on. I moved to America in 2019 at the age of 15 and had a very difficult time with English and culture, but that seems okay for now.

The whole class so far was affordable for me to understand since we had learned about vectors before back in Vietnam. The hard thing I need to deal with is imagination, due to the fact that we need to understand what's really happening in 3 dimensions and have some calculus 2 and 1 skills as well as trigonometry to work on the problem. But I forgot all of them then. I don't have a specific key to success in this course, since the course looks like a self-study class by watching videos and doing the homework. What I did is to spend extra time on weekends to watch the video so that I can have more time to do the homework and study or review stuff. And try to apply what you learn in daily life, that would help you understand things really well.

For the Vietnamese students, I just want you to know that it is easy for us in this course, so don't panic. I think the most difficult part is English more than the lesson. It will be a little bit awkward when others and professors are talking and you lose track of what they're saying because of English, that's okay and just ask them (professor) again and they're happy to help. Additionally, I know that Viet people are always shy to ask questions or make friends. Please try to talk to others and ask for a few times and that will help you a lot. One more thing, don't wait until the professor opens the studygroup, you have the responsibility on your own, and please have some friends to open a study group for yourself so that helps guys a lot on everything.

Dusty is really helpful for many functions. I hope you can come and see him on whatever stuff you stuck on, I did come and ask him for some advice though.

In the last word of saying, I believe in you, and you can do it, take it easy and always get a good sleep on the night before a test.

Thank you,
Minh Nguyen

works fulltime, 7 yrs in U.S., lots of social interaction

16

Dear Future Student,

Hi, my name is Juan Mena, and I'm majoring in Chemical engineering. I'm 24 years old and I work full time as a security guard. I also immigrated to the US 7 years ago. I attended college in California, but I had to drop out because of economic reasons. I had some difficulties this quarter, some of them personal, but I also had some related to school. I couldn't find a proper time to study, and when I did I usually crammed all I needed to study in a whole afternoon or morning. And although this method grants results some of the time, I only recommend it if you want to be stressed out and not sleeping enough.

Another thing I struggled with this quarter was that I didn't anticipated was the amount of social interaction there was in this class. I struggle with talking with people, so it was quite difficult having to talk to different people every day. But I still liked this class, I think that the way he made us all work together was helpful. Sometimes classmates helped each other to understand the material better. And I think attending these classes to do this teamwork is one of the best things you could do to be successful in a class taught by Dusty. Because it would not only help you to get a good grade in this class, it would teach you how to cooperate with colleagues, to learn the meaning of teamwork and how valuable this concept is used in the STEM careers that we are all pursuing. And, like any other class, another thing that would greatly help you with this class is to study at least for a couple minutes a day.

STEM careers are difficult, but ~~we~~ don't give up, keep pushing forward and just try your best. Remember that failure is part of learning, we all make mistakes, but they don't matter, the only thing that matters is how we learn from them.

I wish you good luck,

Juan Mena

chem major, watch the videos! it's okay to struggle.

(17)

Dear future student,

My name is Nicholas Schultz. I am a chemistry major and I have been at Highline for three years, the first two of which I was in Running Start. I went to Thomas Jefferson High School and I came to Highline for greater access to educational resources. Being a chemistry major, I am a rare sight in calculus three: It is a math class that I will never need or use ever in my future education, unlike the physics/engineering/math/computer science majors. Math is not my forte, and I hope to bring some new perspective to you as you read.

I took calculus three from Dusty, but I truly wish that I was able to take more of my math classes from him. He is an excellent professor; he is knowledgeable, approachable, and listens to his students. That being said, as with most math classes, it is still challenging. It is tempting to not watch the video lectures before class or to watch them without following along with the notes. I could not discourage this any higher than I already am. It destroys your ability to learn in Dusty's classroom. Watching the videos, taking notes, *and asking questions* are all vital to succeeding in any flipped classroom. The content builds on itself over time, and if there's a "small thing" you don't understand in week two, then you will probably regret not focusing on it in week six when it becomes the backbone of the chapter.

Flipped classrooms are great for learning when you consume all of the intended content. If you watch the video, take the notes, and mostly understand what the content was, you will do exceptionally well in Dusty's class. That being said, if you have a hard time paying attention to video lectures or there are lots of distractions around you, it can be difficult to learn effectively. I recommend leaving at least enough time to watch the assigned video twice over. This should give you enough time for pausing to take notes and rewatching portions to reinforce the material you don't understand.

The biggest piece of advice I can give to you, as a high level student, is that you need to become comfortable knowing you don't know. At this point in your education, you will be learning new concepts that you may have never even heard about. You will feel lost at times, even if you have never experienced that before. You can do it. It is okay and it is normal. Everyone does it. The end of the world has not come because you have hit a significant barrier. Remember the many resources available to you like the math resource center, office hours, and tutoring. There is no shame in taking advantage of those; they are made for you. You are a capable student. You can do this. Good luck!

Sincerely,
Nicholas Schultz

completed workalongs, start early, make friends

(18)

Letter to Future Student

Hi student, my name is Caleb Mburu and I'm a computer science major. This is my last year at Highline College then I transfer to UW in the fall. I love working out and traveling. If possible, give them both a shot you will thank me later. Some challenges I faced this quarter as a student was keeping up with lecture videos and coming to class on time. I made it through by using the completed work along when I did not have time to watch the videos. Then wherever I get confused I would refer to the videos. Being late to class was overcome by flowing right into whatever it was we were doing that day. Advice I have for being successful in a class taught by Dusty is to start homework early, make friends, and be up to date with the notes or video for the day. Starting the homework at least 24 hours before it's due gives you bonus points per question so utilize that. Making friends can be beneficial when it comes to homework or even study groups which also give extra credit by the way. Then being up to date with the notes/video for the day prepares you for the problems you solve in class. It feels good when you're one of people who knows how to solve the problems therefore you can either carry the group or at least know what's going on if you're not writing. A good part of the flipped model is you get to meet and work with everyone in the class. A challenging part of the model were the times I came into class without the notes done or video watched. The class is not hard nor easy just complete the notes, start homework early, and make friends.

Running start, watch videos, attend class

19

Dear future Calculus 3 students,

My name is David Kim and I am a highschool senior enrolled in the running start program here at Highline. I am majoring in computer science and am on track to graduate with my general associates so I can transfer my credits to a four-year university. As my highschool did not offer calculus, I took my very first calculus series here at Highline and I hope to finish this class with a 3.7 GPA.

Some challenges I faced this quarter was getting used to monday through friday classes. As a majority of my time here at running start has been online, it has been quite challenging waking up and getting to class on time everyday. I live decently far so it was quite exhausting. Make sure to take breaks if you need it and skip class if you feel too exhausted! Mental health is key to succeeding. Another challenge I faced was the amount of lectures we had to watch and I saw myself falling behind in them. I strongly advise you to watch lectures early as every class day you will go over practice problems based on the lectures and in-class is ahead of the homework. So if your homework is on power series 5, make sure to have watched 7 by the next time you come to class.

I also very strongly advise you to GO TO CLASS. You may think that just doing the homework and watching lectures is enough to succeed and that may be true for some, but I found that going to class and solving the practice problems with classmates helped me understand the material much more in-depth. For example when we were going over power series 6-7, I was completely lost doing the homework and notes but my classmate taught me a simple trick on how to do the ratio test. This stuck with me and the next time we had an exam on the subject, I got a 100% just because I learned that simple trick!

This quarter Dusty introduced the flipped class model in which you watch lectures on your own time, and class time is strictly for only doing practice problems. NO IN-PERSON LECTURES. I personally found this effective but also challenging at times. For one I am a huge procrastinator, and hate doing things in my free time like homework or lectures. I was struggling with keeping up with them but I also found that I enjoyed solving questions in-class rather than just sitting and taking notes the whole time. If you are someone with a very organized schedule, Dusty's class is perfect for you.

All in all, I highly recommend Dusty's calculus 3 class. Although it may not be one of the highest grade classes I've enrolled in, it is a great class and forces you to learn the material. I much prefer to actually understand the material, rather than just earn an easy 4.0 and not know anything, so I greatly appreciate taking this class. Dusty is a fantastic teacher and he'll help you with any questions you have. He is also very flexible and helped me a lot this quarter when I was late or had to miss assignments. Calculus is a difficult topic, but don't be afraid. The only way to learn is to fail first.