Success in pre-calculus

Keys to Success in this course - for students

- Do all the assignments yourself; work in groups as allowed. Getting help from me, your parents, or another student is fine, but please don't copy another's work.
- Copy the problem before working it. (Exception: word problems.)
- Show your work. Turning in a list of answers is never considered acceptable, It is a waste of your time.
- Try to focus on what I present at the overhead. Write down as much as you can.
- Ask questions about what you don't understand. In most cases, I'm happy to go over it again.
- Make sure you are able to do assignment problems without imitating a model problem. It should come from within. Sure, use the model for the first few, but then work without looking. (On tests, there will be no problems to look at; so learning to work without examples is critical for success on tests.)
- Check all odd numbered problems with the answers in the back of the book ONLY AFTER you have completed the problem on your own. If you got the wrong answer, try hard out how you errored.
- Before each test, work some of each type problem that is being covered. This IS the best method for study. Don't try to guess what problems I will give.
- Come to after school tutorials if you find an assignment especially difficult. If you are having problems, TELL ME!
- Pay close attention to all details. You don't really understand a new idea or problem until you can solve it independently and even better show another student how to do it.
- In mathematics you must learn to pay attention to every letter, every minus sign, every parenthesis --- EVERYTHING!!
- Try not to be careless and proceed too fast.
- Don't copy; the person you copy from may not understand the problem any better than you.
- Work hard. Decide your own fate!

In fact, these keys work for most mathematics courses K-16.