



Preparing For High School

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN
PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE



IMPORTANT MESSAGE...

Please make sure you complete the High School Enrolment forms and organise an interview with the school as soon as possible.

Test Taking Strategies

- Test taking day has arrived! Are your students ready? Test taking is a major cause for anxiety amongst students and can affect even the most well prepared. Be sure to arm your students with strategies that will help them pace themselves, as well as work!
- Prior to exam time, talk to your students about implementing testing strategies that have proven to be effective like the ones below:
- **Listen and read all the instructions:** Prior to taking any test, students need to be made aware of the instructions and encouraged to ask questions if they do not understand what the directions are asking them to complete or do.
- **Read passages and questions:** Students like to rush through the reading passages of tests and jump straight to the questions. Talk about how important it is to read the entire reading passage and then all the questions before answering. Show students how to circle, underline or highlight important details of the passage.
- **Rule out incorrect answers:** Rather than making a random or uneducated guess, show students how to rule out the incorrect answers. Examine reading passages again or rework problems to show how to disprove possible answers.
- **Write things down:** Most exams allow for scratch/scrap paper or they allow students to write inside the testing booklets. Show students how to draw out mathematics problems and use scratch paper. Encourage students to write down formulas they know or need at the start of the test, as well as definitions to words they know on their scratch paper to reference later.
- **Go back and check:** Remind students to check their work and review the recently completed section of the test if time allows. Checking work involves re-reading passages, or reworking mathematics problems to prove the correct answer is selected.



We Need Your Help

Checklist:

- ☺ Diary signed and checked
- ☺ Stationery ready for class -[Please check your child had all the stationery needed to participate in class activities]
- ☺ HAT
- ☺ Uniform—Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform

Thanks

Encourage your child to Participate in Class

Get involved in your classes. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by participating.

Class participation is a valuable part of learning. In many cases, participating in class is an important criterion that teachers use to assign final grades.

Many students are reluctant to participate in class. This may be because they are shy or are fearful of being judged and criticized. Other students participate in class, but do so inappropriately.

Here are some suggestions that can help you be an effective class participant.

Be sure to come to class prepared. Do all assignments and readings and review your notes from previous class sessions. This will help to prevent you from making uninformed comments or asking inappropriate questions.

As you prepare for class, think about important questions and concerns that may come up in class. Be sure that you are prepared to handle these.

Try to sit close to the front of the class. It's hard to stay uninvolved when you are in close proximity to the teacher.

Listen to what the other students say. You can then build off their comments to make your own.

Have confidence that your opinions will be valued by your teacher and by the other students.

Be constructive when you react to something another student says. You can disagree, but don't go into an "attack mode."

Don't "hog" the class. Teachers and students alike resent someone who seems to have something to say about everything.

Don't be afraid to be wrong. Learning is a change in behavior based on experience. You can learn from being wrong.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. This is a good learning technique. Also, the chances are that other students in the class have the same questions as you do, and they will appreciate your asking.

Be sure that your questions and comments are relevant to the class topic. Don't waste the time of the teacher and other students by going off track.

Don't take it personally if others disagree with what you say. Your class should be a good forum for give and take.

Finally, here is a suggestion for students who are shy. Come to class early so that you can talk to some of the other students. This will help you to establish a personal connection with them so that you will feel more comfortable about participating in class

Tips for Remembering

Remembering is a tricky business. We can remember some things easily yet cannot seem to remember other things. We remember some things throughout our lives, while others things seem to come in one door in our mind and go out the other.

There is no "magic pill" for remembering. But here are some tips that can help.

1. Try to understand the information you must remember. Understanding the information will allow you to relate the information you must remember to what you already know.
2. Try to form an association between the information you must remember and a person, place, object, situation, or emotion.
3. Frequently recite the information you must remember or write it several times.
4. If you must remember a large body of information, try to break the information into smaller, more manageable categories. Then work on remembering the information in each category separately.
5. Create a graphic organizer for the information you must remember. It is easier to remember information that is organized than to remember information that seems to be all over the place.
6. Try to bring a personal touch to the information you must remember. Relating the information to something about you will make it easier to remember.
7. Try to form a picture in your mind of the information you must remember. Visual imagery is a powerful tool for remembering.
8. Try to apply what you must remember. For example, if you are trying to remember the meanings of some new vocabulary words, use the words in your speaking and writing.
9. Test yourself. A good way to do this is to write a question about the information you must remember on the front side of an index card and the answer to the question on the back. Use as many cards as you need. Look at the questions, try to answer them, and then check to see how you did.
10. Try to make remembering a fun activity by creating games using the information you must remember.

Remembering is not just something you must do in school. It is something you must do in all aspects of your life.