

## Tips and Techniques

### Suggestions for Improving Test Grades



**Scripture Verse:** "Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, NLT)

#### Grades: 6-12

The following tips were part of the curriculum presented by Victory Christian Schools' Academic Facilitator. The role of the Academic Facilitator was to work with students who were "D" and "F" students in assisting them academically and spiritually to be successful in school. An academic facilitation period was incorporated into a late afternoon session on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. Students signed a Student Student Improvement Contract (See sample at end of this document).

Part of the focus was educating the student to realize that the wisdom they lack is through the work of the Holy Spirit, exercise of faith, and good work. James 2:18 says, "*But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*" the daily schedule." (ESV) For students, "works" includes school work.

Realizing that up to one-half of a student's grade may be determined by how well they perform on tests and quizzes, the following pointers illustrate on how to take a test thus improving grades.

1. **A little at a Time.** You will be a greater success when you study a little each night rather than cramming in one night, staying up late, and getting little sleep. Don't overwork yourself in a P.E. class or recess activity just prior to taking a test. Be in a good condition to think. Establish a study and review schedule a few weeks before each major test covering a block of material in each review.
2. **Save daily papers and quizzes.** Review these on a regular basis, paying special attention to your errors. Find out the reason for the error and then correct the cause of the error. Take good notes during review periods. They usually cover material on the tests.
3. **Check chapter titles.** When reviewing chapters in a text book, check the chapter title; look at the section heading to see what areas will be covered; focus in on paragraph headings; notice what the author is saying in the introductory paragraph; inspect any illustrations or marginal titles; formulate some questions the teachers might ask, and then recite the answer.
4. **Establish a daily recital of key facts presented the day before.** Formulate questions and answer them. Have a family member--mother, father, brother, or sister--ask the questions.
5. **Keep a card file of important information for quick review.** Take these cards with you to study while you are on the bus, visiting a friend, or waiting in the lunch line.

6. **Check with the teacher.** See what type of test is being given and the pages covered.
7. **Watch for special statement.** When taking a test, watch for statements such as: all, always, never, none, absolutely, or every. These statements are usually false so read the question very carefully.
8. **Consider special questions.** Questions with statements such as many, often, sometimes, on the average or generally are usually true.
9. **Pay attention to parts of questions.** When answering a multiple choice question, read the first part of the questions; then think of the correct answer. Check to see if it is among the choices. Next, reread the first part with all possible answers. Finally, cross out those answers that are obviously wrong. Reread the correct answer.
10. **Examine essay questions carefully.** In answering essay questions, examine the question to see exactly what is being asked. Look for key words such as summarize, evaluate, discuss, identify, review, illustrate, name contract, and justify. Outline your answer. Write clearly and neatly. Then read over your answer after you have finished.
11. **Take your time.** Take all the time given to complete the test. If you finish before your time is up, you may have forgotten to complete an answer. Review each answer.
12. **Skip hard items or items that you are not sure of.** Don't make a poor guess. Come back to them at the end.

Students were asked to make the following declaration of purpose outloud and to release their faith through these spoken words.owing Say the following confession aloud:

BECAUSE I SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND BECAUSE I STUDY TO SHOW MYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, MY SPIRIT MAN IS ALIVE AND ALERT UNTO GOD.

MY MIND IS RENEWED WITH THE WORD OF GOD DAILY. THEREFORE, ALL LEARNING IS ADDED UNTO ME AS I CONTINUE TO DILIGENTLY SEEK GOD AND ASSUME MY CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES. FEAR CAN HAVE NO PLACE IN ME IN JESUS NAME. ANXIETY CAN HAVE NO PLACE IN ME IN JESUS NAME.

I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT BECAUSE I HAVE DILIGENTLY STUDIED HIS WORD AND HAVE THOROUGHLY PREPARED FOR MY CLASSES, I HAVE PERFECT RECALL AND I TRIUMPH IN ALL TASKS, INCLUDING ALL TESTS AND QUIZZES. (2 Timothy 2:15, Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 3:3)

STUDENT STUDY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT  
of

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**I commit to the following:**

1. Tutoring every Tuesday from 3-4pm in room 217 or 218 for math and/or english.
2. A consistent study time to complete my homework. The best days and time for me to do my homework is:  

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**Before I begin studying, I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me comprehend my homework. The Bible says that "if we lack wisdom we can ask God to help us," James 1:5. "I believe I receive the help I need when I pray," Mark 11:22, 23. I will ask my Mom, Dad, friend, sister or brother to pray with me if I feel I need the extra prayer support. I now understand that asking for help is the right thing to do. The Bible says we have not because we are not asking. Asking is also an act of humility because you realize you cannot do it alone.**

3. I will check in weekly with Ms. Joy or Mr. Powell at a student support group to be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3-4pm in room 306. If I can not come to a session for any reason I will let Ms. Joy or Mr. Powell know by telling them personally or leaving them a note on their door.
4. I will ask my teacher questions when I don't understand what is required or assigned. I also agree to pay attention in class.
5. One of the most important things I can do is allow myself time in the morning to make sure my homework is in my backpack to bring to school; and before I leave school I will make a conscious effort to check and make sure the books I need to study from are with me to take home. I will also check for other assignments given to me by my teacher(s).
6. I believe in my heart that I can raise my grades. I believe that this will come to pass as I discipline myself to read the required materials. If needed, I agree to reread the text. I will also get the phone number of a student recommended by my teacher or on my own to use as a resource person to call when I need help or get stuck on a problem at home.
7. I will tell myself throughout the day that, "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**". I will do my part and I know God will help me when I believe in His ability to help me. I will participate in class and listen attentively to my teachers.

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*Ms. Cassandra Joy, Academic Facilitator*

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*Staff signature*

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*Student's signature*

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*Date*

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*Parent's signature*

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*Date*

C. Joy/Update 3.27.97