



# THE PARENT PORTAL

O'Gorman High School Parent Newsletter

ISSUE #2: November 2014

## Exam Info Tips For Parents

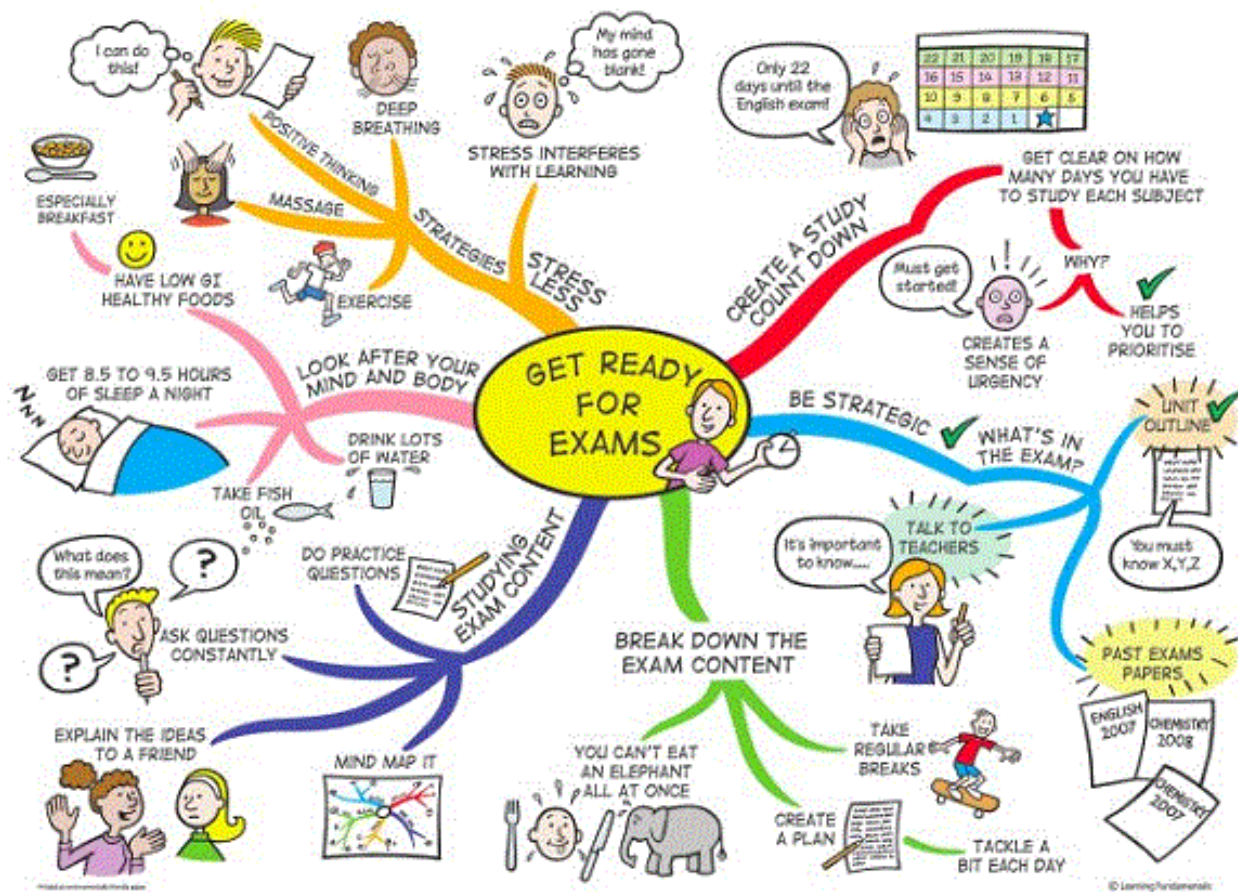
- Every course has a final evaluation that represents 30% of the overall course grade. Most classes have final exams and culminating assignments as part of these final activities. We encourage you to review course overviews with your child to see if he/she has a final exam and/or culminating project.
- Generally, exams are 1.5 hours in length for grades 9 and 10 students. Exams are 2-3 hours in length for grades 11 and 12 students.
- It is important that you schedule appointments, activities, and vacations outside of the exam period. The ONLY acceptable reason for students to be absent from an exam is medical illness verified by a doctor's note.
- Every teacher provides their students with an exam review to help them prepare study notes before they write an exam. Ask your child to see their exam reviews for each course.
- All students MUST wear their uniforms on examination days.
- Students are permitted to leave the exam room after one hour; however, they are encouraged to check their answers over before they hand in their exams.
- Students who arrive late for an exam are NOT provided extra time, so ensure that your child goes to bed at a reasonable time the night before to ensure he/she is well rested.
- Studies have proven that children think and work better when they are not hungry. Ensure that your child has had a nutritious breakfast before they leave for school in the morning.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of a culminating activity or exam, you are encouraged to speak with the subject teacher by calling the school at 705-268-4501. The attendance secretary, Mrs. Leclerc, will give the teacher your message. Follow up communication will be done promptly.

## CORE VALUE:

*We believe that students will be more successful in their courses if they incorporate ongoing teacher feedback into their work.*

## In This Issue

- Info Tips For Parents
- Mind Map: Preparing for Exams
- LINK: Hot Chocolate & Exam Prep Night
- Meet Our Department Heads
- Working Together



This mind map was created by Jane Genovese to identify simple things students can do to be prepared for exams. To see more mind maps about a variety of topics, go to [www.mindmapart.com](http://www.mindmapart.com)

## Grade 9 “First Timers” Offered Extra Help From LINK Leaders!

We know that our Grade 9’s have never written exams before, so the LINK leaders offer “Hot Chocolate and Cram Night” where they help students study. Three kinds of help are offered during this session:

1. Subject specific help (review math, English, science content);
2. Study tips that can be applied to all subjects;
3. How to organize yourself in preparation for an exam.

### “Hot Chocolate & Cram Night”

**Monday, January 12th from  
6:30PM—8:00PM**



Members of the LINK Crew are ready to help Grade 9 students study for their exams.

# Department Head Leadership Team

**Numeracy :**

*“Math counts!”*

**Miss Romanowski**

**Catholic Student  
Life:**

*“Dare to do!”*

**Mr. Basso**

**Pathways:**

*“Plan for Success!”*

**Mrs. D’Alessandri**

**Community, Cul-  
ture & Care:**

*“Faith in Action!”*

**Mrs. Neal**



Department Heads offer ongoing leadership and support to fellow staff members.

## How to “Stay Cool” as Exams and Culminating Projects Heat Up

1. Keep up to date with daily assignments. Learning is often divided into small chunks done daily. Final exams/culminating projects often require students to put all the pieces of their learning together.
2. Ask questions during class or outside of class time when a course concept is confusing. Teachers are there to help students.
3. Don't wait before starting bigger projects. Break down a large task into smaller, more manageable chunks and spread out the work over several days rather than trying to tackle it in one sitting!
4. Find a quiet place to work that is free of distractions so a focused effort is possible.

## You May Wish to Consider:

A book that may be helpful to students is *Test Taking Strategies* (Study Smart Series) by Judi Kessleman -Turkel.

**Winner:** Home Study Book of 2007

**Summary:** Strategies for taking objective tests (multiple choice, true/false, matching), essay tests, and oral exams. The authors also offer help for handling **anxiety** by explaining **relaxation techniques** to help students control nervousness. There are tips for **managing time during the test** and for **pulling answers out of your memory** even when the question drew a blank at first glance.



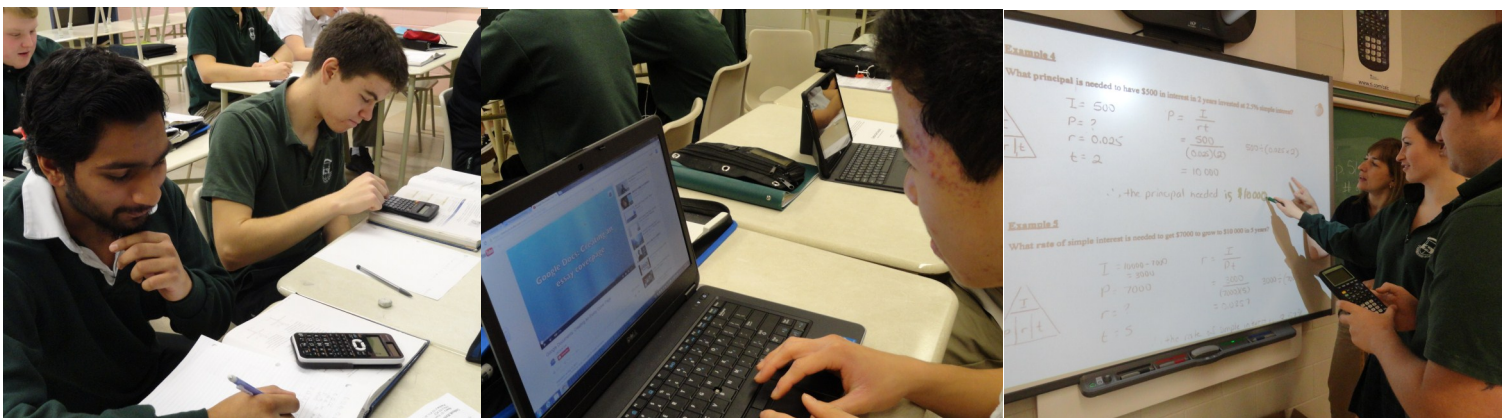
O’Gorman Parents for Kids is a volunteer parent group looking for new members. They provide snacks at school dances, fundraise money for bursaries and offer financial help to enable all students to participate in extra-curricular activities. If you would like to join, we welcome your service. Please call 705-268-4501 and give your name to Mrs. Leclerc.

## Growing Together in Faith and Education!

Parents are the first teachers in the lives of their children. However, by the time children reach high school, some parents feel like they should let go and give their children greater responsibility for their own learning. While teenagers should take on more responsibility, they also need a balance of pressure and support from their parents to ensure they reach their potential. At OHS, we believe parents are an essential partner in their child’s education and we want to encourage parents to stay involved in all aspects of school life.

### We Invite You ...

- ◇ To remain active in your children’s education by encouraging them to attend daily & to participate in school activities
- ◇ To ask questions about what your child is learning in each of his/her classes and to discuss concerns with teachers as they arise
- ◇ To live out the Catholic faith at home with time set aside for family prayer, for weekend worship in a local parish, and for volunteer service to help people in our community



Students working hard to gain the knowledge and skills so they can be successful in life!