

ACADEMIC TIPS FOR PARENTS OF FRESHMEN:

The key to academic success can be found in six words: **BE PROMPT, BE PRESENT, BE PREPARED.** Expect your child to get his work done on time, to be physically and mentally present during each period of the day, and to be prepared for class with materials, homework, etc., each day. (Students need to be reminded that “no written assignment” does NOT mean “no homework.” Students are expected to read, re-read, and study!)



1. Academic support is available for each student. The student is encouraged to seek that support. If a student is having trouble in a class, he should first approach the teacher for extra help either before or after school. He might also talk with his counselor about developing an organized study plan. His counselor can also help him to arrange for a National Honor Society tutor.
2. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s progress through Power School (grades) and the teachers’ websites (assignments, classroom activities and calendar, etc.). A parent who is concerned about a grade is encouraged to discuss the grade with the student before contacting the teacher. Since the teacher and the student are closest to all academic situations, any issues that arise are best resolved by student-teacher-parent dialogue. Administrative involvement is a last resort. (Teachers are required to update grades every two weeks, and parents should expect this.)



3. Semester exams are very important, as they comprise 10-20% of a student’s semester grade. Students should be encouraged to be organized throughout the semester, so that they will have the necessary study materials at hand when they begin studying for the exams.
4. The Cathedral grading scale is A (93-100), B (85-92), C (77-84), D (70-76), and F (0-69).
5. Cathedral has weighted grades. The weighting that a grade receives depends on the academic level of the course. For example, a B in a college prep class receives a weight of 3.0, while in an academic class, it would be 3.25, and in an honors class, it would be 3.67.
6. Students earn a place on the honor roll when their GPA is at least 3.2. They are placed on the high honor roll when it is at least 3.6. Students whose GPA falls below 2.0 will be placed into a guided resource period. These students will be placed on academic probation, which means that they have a semester to show improvement or they may be asked to leave our school.



7. Students are NEVER to use their cell phones to text or call anyone, including their parents, during school hours. If a student gets ill during the day, he should go to the front office and call his parent from there. Likewise, parents should never call or text their students during school hours. If a parent must reach his student during the day, he should call the front office and a message will be sent to the student.



8. If a student will be absent from school, the parent must call the attendance line (542-1481, #1 or 543-4942, #1) before 9:00 a.m. If a student needs an early release, the parent should call the attendance line as early as possible before the release time. (Students must be present for at least five full periods of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity that day.)



9. Each teacher has his own policy for make-up work. If a student misses class for any reason, he is expected to discuss the make-up work with his teacher.

10. The first three tardies to first period are excused each semester. After he uses his three excused tardies, a student will be issued a detention for any additional first-period tardies. There are NO excused first-period tardies once the first three have been used.

11. Schedules will be mailed in mid-to-late July. Freshman schedule changes will be made on Friday, August 7 (1-4:00 p.m.), on Wednesday, August 12 (8:30-10:00 a.m.), and from Friday-Thursday, August 14-August 18 (after school). **Schedules are not changed to accommodate teacher preferences.** (Scheduling questions should be directed to the student's academic advisor: Mrs. Bonny Hannigan (students with last name A-G), Mr. Greg Bamrick (H-N), and Mrs. Melba Salmon (O-Z)).

12. All parents are highly encouraged to attend our "Meet the Teacher" evening on August 27. They should also plan to attend our parent-teacher conference evenings at the end of the first and third quarters.

13. All parents should carefully read the parent email that Mr. Worland sends out each Wednesday. The email is rather lengthy, and some information is repeated from week to week. New information for each week is written in red. If a parent has not received a parent email by August 6, he should contact Sister Lynne Matteson at smatteson@cathedral-irish.org. Also, Sister should be notified if a parent email address has changed.



14. Please carefully read the "Blue Book" that your child will bring home on the first day of school. Never hesitate to contact Mrs. Lisa Ford, Vice Principal for Academic Affairs, (lford@cathedral-irish.org or 968-7321) with general academic questions.