

Montgomery Blair High School

9th Grade Academy

Outreach and Preparation for Success

As part of preparation for success in the 9th grade as well as transitioning to the 10th grade, we have developed the following preparation guide and related information: **Study Skills, Preparing for Tests (Semester Finals and State Test – HSA), Five Day Plan, Final Exam Schedule, Study Place, Check List, Study Habits Check List.**

Special Note for Parents of 9th Graders:

During final examinations, students will need to report to school for the specific period exam (see schedule). Each day, after exams are over, students must provide their own transportation to leave school grounds in order to prepare for the next day's examination.

Important Study Skills

- Organization is very important; gather all notes and any tests/quizzes that you can find. Important assignments are also helpful.
- Review all material quickly to get a feel for the area you really need to study.
- Hopefully, looking over notes carefully should refresh your memory. If not, a textbook should provide a more in-depth explanation. When in doubt, talk to a teacher about it.
- Once you've refreshed your memory, try doing problems from your tests, quizzes or even problems in the textbooks with answer in the back. Even looking over problems with steps and answers should help.

- Take your time! I find that heavier material (math, science, history) takes at least 3 good days of study each to review all information once.
- Group study is always helpful if you've studied first on your own. Group study is good for subjects that involve a lot of memorizing (biology, history).
- There is no one right way to study. What works for one person may not work for you AND what works for you in one class may not work for you in another. You may need to try different approaches until you find one that works for you in a specific class. Ultimately, you'll know when you've found an efficient and effective study method.

Preparing for Tests

Do you want to get better grades on your tests? Most students do. You can too if you follow these suggestions:

1. Ask your teacher to explain what will be on the test. Also ask what will not be on the test. This way you know exactly what you need to study for the test.
2. Review your textbook notes to be sure they are complete. Compare your notes with those taken by other students. Ask your teacher to clarify anything you do not understand.
3. Review your class notes to be sure they are complete. Compare your class notes with notes taken by other students. Ask your teacher to clarify anything you do not understand.
4. To learn all you need to know to do well on a test and get a good grade, you need to begin to prepare early. Schedule your time so you will be able to start preparing five days before the test is given.

Five-Day Test Preparation Plan

Here is a five-day plan you can use to prepare for a test. The five day plan shows what you should do each day to get ready for the test. If you follow the five-day plan, each day you will find yourself better prepared

to take the test. You will be so prepared for the test that you will look forward to taking it.

Here is what you need to do each day:

Day Five:

Read the notes you took in class. Read the notes you took from your teacher. On this day you should identify all the important information you must know and remember for the test. Highlight or underline the important information in your notes.

Day Four:

Use the techniques you have learned, such as visualization, association, application, and repetition, to help you remember the important information you identified on Day Five. Review your notes until you can remember all the important information. The more information there is to remember and the more difficult the information is, the more times you will need to review it.

Day Three:

Rewrite the important information in a brief form using the fewest words you can. Use abbreviations whenever possible. Review your rewritten notes at least twice on this day.

Day Two:

Make a list of questions you think your teacher will ask on the test. Write answers for these questions.

Day One:

This is the day you take the test. Review your rewritten notes from Day Three. Also review the questions and answers you prepared on Day Two. A good time to do this is while eating breakfast or while riding to school. Just before the test, review anything you are having difficulty remembering.

Winter HAS Schedule (make-ups)
(High School Assessment Testing)

Tuesday	January 17	Biology
Wednesday	January 18	English
Thursday	January 19	Algebra
Friday	January 20	Government
Tuesday	January 24	Biology
Wednesday	January 25	English
Thursday	January 26	Algebra
Friday	January 27	Government
Monday	January 30	Geometry
Tuesday	January 31	Biology

Study Place Checklist

Evaluate your study place using the following checklist. Read each statement and for each place a check under “Rarely,” “Generally,” or “Always.” Use this guide to help you make your decisions.

Rarely means almost never.

Generally means about half the time.

Always means all of the time.

Always

Rarely Generally

I have a quiet study place.

There are no visual distractions.

There is good light.

The temperature is comfortable.

There is a comfortable chair.

All necessary work and reference materials are there

There is a desk or table large enough to hold all my materials

I can use this study place whenever I need it.

	Rarely	Generally	Always
I have a quiet study place.			
There are no visual distractions.			
There is good light.			
The temperature is comfortable.			
There is a comfortable chair.			
All necessary work and reference materials are there			
There is a desk or table large enough to hold all my materials			
I can use this study place whenever I need it.			

Study Habits Checklist

You need good study habits to get good grades. Good grades just don’t happen – they come from the result of studying. Use the following checklist to see how good your study habits are. Read each statement and for each place a check under “Rarely,” “Generally,” or “Always.” Use this guide to help you make your decisions.

Rarely means almost never.

Generally means about half the time.

Always means all the time.

	Rarely	Generally	Always
I start working on time.			
I avoid daydreaming.			
I tell my friends not to call me during my study time.			
I take short breaks when I feel tired.			
I begin with my hardest assignment.			
I review my notes before beginning an assignment.			
I finish one assignment before going on to another.			
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I have a "study buddy" I can contact when I get stuck.			
I begin studying for a test at least five days before it is given.			
I keep working on long term assignments.			
I write down questions I will need to ask my teacher.			

**Fall Semester Final Exam Schedule
2005-2006**

Exam Day Schedule		Activity	Time
Day	Date		
Thursday	1/12	Review Day-Periods 1-8	
Friday	1/13	Exam Block-1	7:25-9:35
		Break	9:35-9:45
		Exam Block-2	9:45-11:55
Monday	1/16	Martin Luther King (no school)	
Tuesday	1/17	Exam Block-3	7:25-9:35
		Break	9:35-9:45
		Exam Block-4	9:45-11:55
Wednesday	1/18	Exam Block-5	7:25-9:35
		Break	9:35-9:45
		Exam Block-6	9:45-11:55
Thursday	1/19	Exam Block-7	7:25-9:35
		Break	9:35-9:45
		Exam Block-8	9:45-11:55
Friday	1/20	Make-Up Exams-2nd Quarter Ends With Administration Approval	
Monday	1/23	Professional Day- (no school)	
Tuesday	1/24	Second Semester Begins	No Activity Buses

Special Note: Students will be dismissed each day at the end of the exam period. They will need to make arrangements for their own transportation.

*****If students have either a 1st, 3rd, 5th or 7th block examination, they must attend 2nd, 4th and 6th period class the day of the exam.*****