



THE

March 2010



Orange County Educational Arts Academy

Ten Steps to Getting Better Grades Adapted from Linda O'Brien's "How to get Good Grades"

TIMES

Step One: *Believe in yourself* – In order for you to succeed, you have to believe in yourself and your abilities. Whether you're an athlete preparing for competition or a student tackling a difficult subject, it's important to believe in yourself. You need to recognize the talents and abilities that you possess, and you must know and believe that you can succeed. Take a minute to write down what the highest grade you think you can earn in each subject area for this grading period. Think of these grades that you wrote down as your academic goal for this grading period and keep repeating the process every trimester. *Believe in yourself and believe that you can achieve these goals!*

Step Two: *Be organized* – If you're organized, you have what you need, when you need it. The following are several ideas on how to get organized. You determine what's best for you.

Use three-ring notebooks for class notes. Three-ring notebooks work well because you can easily insert handouts, and if you miss a class, you can copy someone else's notes and insert them where they belong. Buy a handheld 3-hole punch and put it in your backpack. You'll then be able to punch your handouts right there in class and immediately put them in your notebook along with your notes for the day.

Use an assignment notebook (or planner). Get an assignment notebook or planner, take it with you to every class (if you have more than one class), and use one page for each day's assignments. When you're given an assignment, write it on the page under the date it's due. For example, if today is Feb. 18 and you have a social studies assignment due tomorrow, write the assignment on the Feb. 19 page. Every day you need to look at your planner and see what's due in the next few days to ensure you complete your assignments with time to spare.

When you're given a large assignment, use your assignment notebook or planner to

break the assignment down into smaller parts. For example, if you have a book report due at the end of the week, you could break this assignment down into smaller parts by giving yourself the following four separate assignments:

Jan. 10: Choose book from the library and read 2 chapters

Jan. 11: Read chapters 3 through 5

Jan. 12: Do rough draft of the report

Jan. 13: Do a final draft of my report

Use folders for schoolwork. Use a different color folder (with pockets) for each class or subject area. In these folders, keep current assignments along with all returned assignments, quizzes, and tests. Old tests and quizzes can help you study for future tests, and they may come in handy if there's ever a question about your grade. In each of your folders, keep a record of your test, quiz, and homework grades for that class or subject area. This will eliminate surprises at report card time. If you are ever unsure as to how you're doing in class, talk to your teacher.

Have phone numbers for classmates. Make sure that you have a phone number for at least one person in class. If you're absent, you'll have someone you can call to find out what you've missed. Phone numbers are also helpful when you have a question about an assignment or upcoming test.

Keep your locker (if you have one) and backpack neat. Never put loose or folded up papers (homework assignments, handouts, etc.) in your locker, backpack or book. Always put them in the appropriate folder or notebook, and always keep your locker and backpack neat, clean, and organized. This is especially a good habit to start practicing at a very early age.

Get organized before your to bed. Put completed homework in the appropriate folders, and put everything you need for the next day in the same place each night. If there's something

you need to remember to do in the morning, leave yourself a note so that you don't forget it.

Step Three: *Manage your time well* - With good time management, you have time for the things you have to do, and you still have time for the things you want to do.

Use class time wisely. Always use the time teachers give you in class to start on your homework, to ask questions, or to get help.

Create your own study plan. Some students study best at night; others study best in the earlier day. Most students also have activities, sports, and other things they have to work around.

At the end of the day, determine how much time you have available, look at how much homework you have, and then develop a study plan for the day. The help keep yourself organized and "on track," have a study plan in mind before you get home from school. For example:

3:00-4:00 Study for math test

4:00-5:00 Study for social studies quiz and read

5:00-6:30 Folklórico dance practice

Prepare for sabotage. Identify anything that could interrupt or ruin your study plan, then figure out how to eliminate or avoid it. For example, be sure to tell your friends not to call you or don't sit or lie down on the couch until 8:00 pm, when you know you'll be done with homework.

Step Four: *Be successful in the classroom.* If you follow the advice in this section, you'll enjoy school more and you'll get better grades.

Be in school, on time, every day. When you miss school, you miss lectures, notes, class discussions, assignments, quizzes, and tests. It doesn't matter how good you

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are about making up your work, you can never make up all of what you miss, even if you're out of school for only one day. *To get good grades, you must be in school every day.* Unless you have an extended illness or a chronic health problem, you should miss no more than five or six days of school a year.

Learn how to adapt to different teachers. In the classroom, the teachers are in charge and they make the rules. You might have one teacher who counts you tardy if you're not in your seat when it's 8:00 am, and another teacher who considers you on time if you have one foot inside the door. It doesn't matter whether or not you agree with the first teacher's rule; it only matters that you are in your

seat when the bell rings. Part of your education is to learn how to adapt to different sets of rules, personalities, and teaching styles.

Be prepared for each class. To be prepared, you need to have books, paper, pencils, etc. with you when you go to class. *You also need to have all your homework done.* When you've done your homework, you get more out of the class; the lecture makes more sense, and you can participate in discussions. If you haven't done your homework, you may not even understand the lecture or class discussion.

Being prepared also means that you come to class ready to learn. Try taking a couple of seconds as you walk into your class to think about what you're going to be doing that day. This will make it easier for you to focus on the subject when the

class starts.

Of course, to be physically and mentally alert you need to eat right, exercise, and get enough sleep.

Sit in front of the class if possible. It is easier to pay attention and to stay involved when you sit in the front of the classroom. It's also easier to ask questions and to see the board, overheads, etc. If you have problems paying attention and you sit in the back of the class, ask your teacher if it would be possible for you to move closer to the front.

(Continued on next month's edition of the OCEAA newsletter)

February Board Meeting

Thank you to all that attended the monthly board meeting in February.

With California having the budget issues it has those same concerns fall to rest on OCEAA as well since the State is where we get a large portion of our funding. Between reductions in funding and deferments in when we get our funding, these last two years have put the budget committee to the

test. Having said that, OCEAA is in good financial health. Many thanks are due to the volunteers on the committee and to Maestra Petropoulos and Maestra Gomez in particular for staying over on Fridays to offer their assistance.



We need to recruit more board members! There have been announcements posted on the OCEAA website and SAUSD website. If you are interested in becoming a member of the OCEAA board, please submit your CV and cover letter to board@oceaa.org.

The FSO president presented upcoming dates and events that are coming up- the Town Hall meeting and the Jog-a-thon. We discussed the volunteer hour requirements of 3 hours per trimester for each student. There are many opportunities that are available at OCEAA to fulfill these requirements- take-home projects, festivals, jog-a-thon, book fairs, and classroom helpers. If you need more information about volunteering, contact fso@oceaa.org.

The principal's report focused on the Charter Renewal process, student achievement, professional development, and the arts. CELDT results were also presented and celebrated meeting Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives 1 & 2 and reclassified 17 students! The teachers have been participating in various staff development activities focusing on English Learners: vocabulary development, Project GLAD, Understanding by Design, and language proficiency levels.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

6th Grade Outdoor Science School—A big thank you!

On February 16th, 2010, our six graders departed on their four-day educational adventure to Outdoor Science School in the beautiful mountains of San Bernardino. At Outdoor Science School, students were able to study geology, ecology and learn about wildlife as they traveled on trails and observed nature. Students worked on team building skills, performed skits and learned songs all while making new friendships. It was a growing experience for many since it was the first time they had been away from their loved ones. We noticed a great bond amongst our students and the glow of their smile just filled the environment. It was an experience like no other. *The entire 6th grade would like to thank the FSO and all the parents and friends for making this experience become a reality.*

Sycamore Parking Lot Security

The school has received reports from parents and staff members about an older, possibly homeless, woman wandering the Sycamore parking lot looking into cars through windows and attempting to open car doors. While staff are on alert about the situation and will ask her to leave when seen as well as contact the authorities, it is equally important that you ENSURE you lock your doors and keep your

valuables OUT OF SIGHT when parking in any lot, especially the Sycamore lot where this activity has been spotted.

Keep an eye out for this woman:

Age - Approximately in her 60s

Height - About 5'3"

Body type - Very thin and frail looking

General description - Has unkempt long gray hair and has been seen wearing

sunglasses and sometimes a hat

As always, we thank you for reporting any suspicious activity around our campus in order to ensure the safety of our children.



Traffic Alert

Please note that the white zone in the back of the school on Sycamore Street is for immediate loading and unloading only. Parking is not allowed in this area. The Santa Ana Police department has been cruising by more often ticketing people. Know that if you leave your vehicle parked in this area, you do so at your own risk of being ticketed. OCEAA is not responsible for any citations incurred.

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching."

Anonymous

Missing Clothes

There have been complaints that people are taking clothes from the lost and found that don't belong to them. Please help jackets find their owners by putting your child's name on the labels and take only things that belong to you and your family.



Calendar

March

1-15...Lottery Registration
 8-12...Canned Food Drive
 10...OCEAA Board Meeting - Library
 10...Jog-A-Thon Pledges Due
 11...2nd Trimester Ends
 12...Parent Tour
 15-26...APRENDA Testing ~ 2nd-8th TWBI
 25...Skate Night
 26...2nd Trimester Report Cards Sent Home
 26...Lottery Drawing 4:15 PM
 29-31...Parent/Teacher Conferences (**Modified Days**)



Save the Date For Family Arts Day with the Orange County Museum of Art & OCEAA

The Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) invited OCEAA to partner with them on their “Visionary Free Second Sunday: Family Arts Day” in March.

Who is Invited: OCEAA’s Students & Their Families

What: Family Arts Day

When: March 14th from 11:00-4pm

Where: The Orange County Museum of Art

*Look for more information on free transportation to and from OCEAA and OCMA

Why You Should Attend: Families get to make art together and visit the museum for free. **Students will have the opportunity to have their arts culminations at the museum. Classes have the opportunity to perform a dance, theater skit, song, or have their artwork displayed at the museum. It is an honor to have the museum invite our students to perform and display their work at the museum!!!**

