

The High School of St. Thomas More

Student's Guide to Finals



**“Instruct the wise, and they become still wiser; teach the just,
and they advance in learning.**

**The beginning of wisdom is fear of the LORD,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”**

Proverbs 9:9-10

Fall 2023 Final Exams Schedule

Lunch will be available for purchase on Monday & Tuesday.

- Teachers will provide guidance for final exams at some point during the week of December 11.
- Exam dates are December 18, 19, and 20.
 - o On the Exam days, students may dress down (following dress down day guidelines) for \$1 a day with the proceeds going towards our sponsored student, Rebeca Yona, through the Children of Faith and Hope. The money will be collected during the first exam of the day (if students have a study hall the first exam of the day they will pay in the office when they arrive at school).
- The school will open at 7:00 daily. Teachers will be available starting at 7:45.
- Students will report to exam rooms promptly at the scheduled time.
- There are three 70-minute exams per day. Each exam period has a 5 minute “housekeeping” added into the block.
- Students will only be excused from the exam room when the exam time is over.
- The cafeteria will be open during all class period exam times for students to have a quiet place to study.

Please note:

- o Students with study halls scheduled during period 1, 4 or 8 may choose to arrive only for their scheduled exam. **No parent permission for late arrival is needed in those circumstances.**
- o Students with study halls scheduled during period 3, 7 or 9 may choose to leave after the first exam period scheduled that day. **Parent permission is required for early dismissal. A signed note or parent phone call is accepted. Students must check out in the office.**
- o Once a student leaves the school, they may not return during that academic day.

Requests for any pre-arrangements for early exams must be made directly through Sr. M. Bridget (srmbridget@hs-stm.org) by **December 1st**. Documentation for these requests may be required.

STM Finals Schedule	Monday, December 18	Tuesday, December 19	Wednesday, December 20
7:00	Building Opens	Building Opens	Building Opens
7:45	Teachers available for assistance	Teachers available for assistance	Teachers available for assistance
8:00	Daily Morning Mass available in Chapel	Daily Morning Mass available in Chapel	Daily Morning Mass available in Chapel
8:40-8:50	Report to Period 1 Prayer and Pledge Housekeeping	Report to Period 4 Prayer and Pledge Housekeeping	Report to Period 8 Prayer and Pledge Housekeeping
8:50-10:00	Period 1 Exam	Period 4 Exam	Period 8 Exam
10:00-10:20	Break	Break	Break
10:20-11:30	Period 2 Exam	Period 5/6 Exam	Period 9 Exam
11:35-12:15	Lunch in Gym/Cafe/Outside	Lunch in Gym/Cafe/Outside	11:30 Dismissal
12:20-1:30	Period 3 Exam	Period 7 Exam	Merry Christmas!

Final Exam Preparation Form

Course: _____

Date of Final Exam: _____

What kind of test will this be? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ True/False
- ☐ Multiple Choice
- ☐ Matching
- ☐ Sentence Completion/Fill-in-the-Blank
- ☐ Short Answer
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Practical (Lab, Demonstration of Skills)

What resources do you have to prepare? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Textbook
- ☐ Student Notes
- ☐ Teacher's Notes/Powerpoints
- ☐ Old Tests, Quizzes
- ☐ Old homework assignments
- ☐ Practice tests
- ☐ Study Group
- ☐ Study Session with Teacher

What is your current Semester Grade? _____

What is your "goal grade" for the semester? _____

Grade Calculation:

Semester 1 Grade: 80%

Final Exam Grade: 20%

To calculate your grade....

[Semester 1 Grade] * .8 = X

[Final Exam Grade] * .2 = Y

X + Y = Final Semester Grade

Final Exams Success

You will have a 70 minute test in each class that is worth 20% of your semester grade.

What does that mean? This exam can make or break you! Do you have an A in a class and want to keep it? You have to do well (A or high B) on your final! Do you have a B+ in a class and want to raise it to the A range? You have to get an A on your final!

How do you know how well you need to do? Here's an example: Sally has an 89% average for the semester. She wants to know what she needs to earn on the final to get an A or A- for the semester! Let's let x be the grade she needs to earn in order to get an A- (the lowest percentage of that is 90%).

$89 \cdot 8 + 2x = 900$	This is an equation that you can use so that you aren't messing with decimals
$712 + 2x = 900$	
$2x = 188$	
$x = 94$	
As you can see, she should get to work!	

Final Exam Planner

Week Before: Have study guide; format of exam understood

Weekend: Flashcards & outlines made; list of questions started

Day Before: Questions for teacher asked; review difficult concepts

Exam Day: Got a good night's sleep and ate breakfast! I'm ready!

Student's Prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all Being, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding.

Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance.

Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Before Exams to St. Joseph of Cupertino

O St. Joseph of Cupertino who by your prayer obtained from God to be asked at your examination, the only preposition you knew.

Grant that I may, like you, succeed in the (here mention the name of Examination) examination.

In return I promise to make you known and cause you to be invoked.

O St. Joseph of Cupertino pray for me

O Holy Ghost enlighten me

Our Lady of Good Studies pray for me

Sacred Head of Jesus, Seat of divine wisdom, enlighten me.

Amen.

Finals Studying Checklist

- ❑ Talk to your teachers about whether or not they will be giving you a study guide. Study guides are only guides of main concepts—make sure you study notes, quizzes, tests and other assignments.
- ❑ Talk to your teachers about the format of the exam—will it be multiple choice? True/False? Essay? Short answer? A mixture of these?
- ❑ Prioritize your exams. Some will require more studying than others. Evaluate all the factors. For example, what do you need to earn on the exam to keep or raise your semester grade? What is the format of the exam? What classes have you needed more study time for throughout the semester?
- ❑ Once you've prioritized your exams, create a schedule for studying. Starting the day before the final is not going to be enough for all or most classes, so aim to start at least the week before.
- ❑ Get organized! Look through all of your old papers and determine which papers will be helpful for studying. When in doubt, ask your teacher!
- ❑ Flashcards are great for memorizing vocabulary words. So is Quizlet!
- ❑ Outlines are great for studying for essay and short answer questions. Focus on creating small outlines to reinforce your understanding of concepts.
- ❑ When you are studying, don't spend valuable time quizzing yourself on concepts you already know. Focus most of your time and energy on the concepts that you have difficulty remembering or understanding.
- ❑ As you are studying, make a list of questions for your teacher. Ask those questions when you review together as a class—or earlier!
- ❑ Sleep well the night before. You won't do as well if you are tired!
- ❑ Get good nutrition! Your body needs fuel to cope with the stress of this week. Breakfast that day is most important.
- ❑ RELAX! Your teachers want you to do well on your exams—but that doesn't mean they will make tests easy. You will have to work for strong grades, but you have the ability to do it. You'll make it to the finish line!

**“Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race,
but only one wins the prize?
Run so as to win.”
1 Corinthians 9:24**