

## ***Exams begin January 12<sup>th</sup>!***

*On the average, people forget quite a bit; in fact, the more they learn, the more they cannot recall. For example, studies reveal this kind of curve:*

*After 20 minutes, a control group remembered 58% and forgot 41%;  
After one hour, the group recalled 46% and forgot 54%;  
After nine hours, the group forgot 38% and forgot 62%;  
After one day, the group retained 34% and forgot 66%.*

One week after students return from the Christmas-New Year break they will be taking Mid-term exams beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>. Mid-term exams are the culmination of all content learned in the first half of the school year. That is why the Academic Committee, consisting of the Department Heads and myself, devoted our last meeting to brainstorming how we can help our students prepare for these very important exams.

This is an opportunity for our students to learn how to prepare for major exams as well as how to “own” the content. As content changes more rapidly in our information society, I believe the process of learning to learn is an essential skill for college and beyond. We also hope that this can be a collaborative effort between the school, the students and parents.

From December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> teachers will encourage students to collect their class notes, quizzes and tests to make sure they have everything they need to study at home. Teachers will apply strategies to help students organize their information and begin the review process before the Christmas vacation.

***Students return to class on January 4<sup>th</sup> for Review Week.*** Teachers will have review packets organized for students to process through the week. The following week we will begin exams with an afternoon “Studyfest.” Studyfest is a 2 hour open help session held in the dining hall with food, drinks and special snacks made by the faculty. All teachers will be available to work with their students and answer any questions. It is also a time when students can form study groups and work together. There will be a second Studyfest mid week so that students have an opportunity to meet with their teachers again and finish the week strong.

As indicated above, time is the enemy of remembering. ***This is where parents can play a key role.*** When you son comes home on December 18<sup>th</sup>:

1. Make sure he has all his textbooks and class notes for each of his 6 subjects.
2. During the first week encourage him to spend one hour for each subject review, organize, highlight or underline important information.
3. During the second week ask them what memory devices they are using to help them remember information in their notes (graphic organizers, acronyms, rhyme, etc.).
4. Finally, try to get them to write a list of questions that they think will be on the test. This gets them thinking about the exam and puts them in excellent position for Review Week.

We strongly encourage students to use vacation time to rest, relax and rejuvenate. However, taking a few hours while in a relaxed mood to stay current will reduce a lot of stress and anxiety when they return from vacation. Once again, our goal is to put our young men in the best position to be successful and proud of their accomplishments. With your help we can take a step closer to making that happen.

**Steve Davis**