



# FRESHMAN FOCUS

“The greatest danger for most of us lies NOT in setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark.” -- Michelangelo

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Planning Period: 1<sup>st</sup> Period 8:00-8:45      Study Hall: 2<sup>nd</sup> Period 8:49-9:38  
Availability for Extended Help: 7:15-7:45 AM and 3:15-4:00 PM

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION – utilizes the resources from the “Freshman Focus” curriculum**

This yearlong course focuses on techniques and learning strategies to improve a student’s study skills. Emphasis is on aiding the students in taking organized notes, time management, test-taking strategies, active listening, goal setting and methods of conducting research. In addition, there will also be an emphasis placed on life skills, including themes such as budget and finance, manners and etiquette, physical and nutritional health, social and relational skills, and much more will be covered in this new, required class for incoming freshman. The themes that will be addressed in this course will include:

- High School Survival Skills
- Building Relationships and Getting Involved
- Making the Grade
- “Who Am I?”
- Exploration of Others
- “The Crunch”
- Don’t Be a Bully!
- Leadership
- Safe and Healthy Decisions
- The Future and Life Skills

## **COURSE OUTCOMES**

After taking this course, students will be able to...

- Navigate throughout the building and transition towards meeting the expectations of high school.
- Incorporate study skills, note taking skills, and available resources to achieve academic success.
- Implement effective test preparation strategies as part of a focus on improving time management.
- Develop positive relationships with the faculty and staff, their classmates, and their community.
- Acquire a knowledge of the school clubs, activities, and athletics available to the student body.
- Develop an appreciation of the importance and the understanding of themselves and of others.
- Explore the values and beliefs of other students and respect how they are similar and different.
- Recognize bullying, understand its negative effects, and learn strategies to prevent this behavior.
- Identify characteristics of effective leaders and embrace the opportunities to enhance leadership.
- Engage in honest conversations with their peers and promote safe and healthy decision-making.
- Think critically about their plan for life after ninth grade and even life after leaving high school.
- Develop competence in personal life skills of finance, etiquette, health and social relationships.

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- Students are required to leave personal belongings in their locker (MP3s, cell phone, make-up, etc.)
- Students are expected to **BE PREPARED** for class with their iPad charged and a writing utensil.
- Students must have the “**HALL PASS**” to leave the classroom. (at the discretion of the teacher)
- Students are expected to **PARTICIPATE** during class discussion and during all group activities.
- Students must be **RESPECTFUL** of their classmates during class discussion or group activities.
- The **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT** will be enforced - dress code, tardiness and detentions.
- **NO** student will **PREVENT** any other student from **LEARNING** or the teacher from teaching.

## ABSENT / LATE WORK

- **NO LATE WORK** will be accepted in accordance with Lima Central Catholic policy.
- Any work during an absence whether it is excused or unexcused is due within two days.
- **However, students with 6+ unexcused absences will receive only 50% of the points.**
- Students who are absent on the day of the test are required to take the test before school, after school or during their study hall within one week of the test date or result in a zero.
- **Students discovered cheating will receive a zero, a detention and parent phone call.**

Students earn a percentage grade calculated based on accumulated points from the following categories:

- **In-Class Activities and Homework – (60% of the calculated grade)**
  - In-Class Activities are based on the academic and social skills from the daily instruction including individual work and group tasks that require creativity and active participation.
  - Homework assignments will reinforce the material that covered during class discussion.
  - In-Class Activities are graded based on the quality of their work in addition to accuracy.
- **Unit Assessment and Projects – (40% of the calculated grade)**
  - Tests will include short answer questions based on the material from in-class activities.
  - Projects will include creation of slide shows, videos, speeches and creative assignments.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- It is essential that each student bring their **I-PAD** with a **FULL CHARGE** to class every day.
- Each student should have a folder that will be used **ONLY** for their Freshman Focus materials.
- Each student should have a blue or black ink pen or a pencil and college-ruled loose leaf paper.

*Please complete the following information and return with your student:*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_