

I. Academic

1. List the subjects you are currently taking in High School.

Algebra I (5)	Gym/Health (13)
Algebra II/Trig – Honors (5)	Integrated Science - Advanced (7)
Art I (5)	JROTC (2)
ATC Careers (1)	Latin 1 (3)
Band (1)	Life Science (2)
Biology - Honors (4)	Physical/Earth Science (1)
Choir (1)	Religion (11)
English 1 (8)	Spanish 1 (6)
English – Honors (5)	Study Hall (1)
French I (2)	World History (5)
Geometry (3)	

4. If you marked “Unprepared” in any row above, please explain. Please be specific as possible.

The teachers at St. Thomas don't really stress enough on handing in homework & organizational skills, which are important factors in high school.

I'm not very organized so I tend to lose things.

Having one folder for all of your subjects is not a good idea. You will lose most notes.

Note-Taking: I don't like to take notes.

Notes are a big thing in high school and most teachers give tests off them. I've never learned how to take good notes.

Little note-taking skills were covered at St. Thomas. Taking your own notes is advised in most classes.

Math: especially my teacher did not help me & didn't teach in my learning style so I was put into a lower class in high school. But now I have an awesome Math teacher in high school and am getting all As because of her.

The Science I had last year didn't even come close to what I'm learning. It didn't prepare me for some of the things I should've been prepared for.

In Science, I just wasn't prepared with what we did last year. All we did was watch a movie and very seldom did we do an experiment. And there are things this year we never even went over.

In reading, I've always struggled. I can read well, it's just I'm slow. I wish I could read faster.

In foreign language, I don't think I learned more than 75 words. I wish we would have received more or done more.

It was hard to learn Spanish and memorize it because we only had it 2 days a week

I don't think that we received enough information about composers and musicians to be prepared for a high school program.

I marked Music because I didn't learn a thing at St. Thomas from it. So I stayed away from it in high school.

In Music, note learning was attempted only once. That attempt failed. I had zero preparation for learning an instrument.

Other: Health, not much study was covered in the area of the human body.

In every subject you will feel unprepared and like you don't know anything but you're not supposed to know – that's the whole point. If you ever don't know anything, then you should always ask the teacher or else you will be lost and fail.

5. What can St. Thomas do to better prepare its students academically for their Freshman year in high school?

I think that you should change the Science program to something that gets the teacher more involved.

You should start doing exams that would prepare them so much.

I think that the only subject that I really am confused in is Science. I think that our Science was lacking a lot in junior high!

You should assign more homework at the beginning of the year, and gradually work down or assign weekly quizzes.

I would say St. Thomas should review more, do more testing, have sample exams (like mini-exams) and give more homework and give out more reports.

It might help them be more responsible if the students weren't constantly reminded about assignments.

St. Thomas has excellent social studies, Math, and English programs but the Science need to be greatly improved. I did well enough in Science to enter H_Biology, but I had several problems at the beginning of the year. Things are running smoothly now, but my weak background in Science was affecting me at the beginning of the year.

Mostly. teach them clear printing not cursive. If their printing is not neat on assignments then they will not get the grade.

I think that St. Thomas is preparing students well for high school!

Tell them that they need to work twice as hard as they are working now.

See what the class average grade is and look at CCs class in Science so they can possibly go over it a little bit so they can get the general idea.

I thought that they prepared me pretty well except with Math, because the teacher did not consider all learning styles.

II. SOCIAL

1. List your extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, drama, Music etc.)

Art, Band, Baseball, Basketball, Blue & White (School newspaper), Bowling Club, Cheerleading, Choir, City Committee with the Mayor, Dance, Football, Latin Club, Quiz Bowl, Right to Life, Robotics, ROTC, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Weight Lifting

4. List any experiences that helped you feel more comfortable?

Don't be afraid to talk to other freshmen. They are also afraid to talk but make the first move to get a new friend. Don't just stick around with St. Thomas people. Meet new people but stay friends with St. Thomas people.

There are so many nice people there (in high school) that want to be your friend. The key is to be relaxed and don't push anyone away and you're good to go.

Freshmen's first day of school. You get acclimated to it all. It also helps to know older people in high school.

Making a new friend that was a different color or nationality. It made me feel accepted by other races.

Playing sports, going to dances and just going to class.

Because I knew several upper-classmen from playing tennis, I felt comfortable because I was able to make friends with not only freshmen, but also a large number of sophomore, junior and senior friends.

Our first day, we all had to play games to get to know each other more. Sports also helped me meet more people during practice and at the games.

Hanging out with friends at the 10-minute break and lunch.

Made good friends. Had good teachers.

Be yourself. Once you're yourself, people will like you for who you are & you'll be comfortable. It's always nice to get a 'hello' from someone in the hall that you don't know and Sometime you could even hang out with that person and find out they're cool.

Just being my self and not worrying about what others think. Just go and have some fun. Also, make the right kind of friends. That is very important.

Just realizing everyone else is in my position. Relax and give it some time.

Being on the basketball team allowed me to meet many people.

7. What can St. Thomas do to better prepare its students socially for their Freshman year in high school?

Do more class activities to bond.

Give back the study hall.

Encourage them just to have fun and be themselves. Don't be a jerk for the first month or else you will get a bad name. Also, don't worry about what someone might think, and don't believe everything you hear.

Tell them to be their own person, not what everyone thinks they should be. They should not give in to peer pressure.

Get involved with events with other schools so that students can meet each other. (ex., NET retreat, JOY rally, etc)

If mocking is going on there, as happened to me there, sometimes it is better to allow that child to face it. In high school none of that happens, so just tell them it is much better here. Fighting or getting worked up about the mean comments won't matter because it doesn't happen.

I think the students have to feel it out for themselves. There's not too much to be done.

Encourage the kids to talk to other kids than St. Thomas kids. In my experience, it was better after I stopped talking to just my St. Thomas friends and started talking to other people too.

Bring other schools together for a day, to communicate and such.

A lot of people judge on appearance, so I think that St. Thomas should allow the girls to wear some makeup or else, when they finally can as freshmen, they overdo it way too much!

Invite other schools to the school dances.

III. SPIRITUAL

5. What can St. Thomas do to better prepare its students spiritually for their Freshman year in High School?

Go more into the time of Christ, before and after some years after. Also, go more into the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the Jewish religion. Freshmen students will study big time for a semester in Old Testament, the Jewish faith, and we even go to Temple Emmanuel. It's fun!

Have them write out reflection cards or something every night and read the Bible a lot!

Continue how you already are.

There are some things that can be done, but most spiritual growth occurs in high school.

Have them become more involved in Religion class. Like to have some quick in-class plays or more fun.

Use the Bible more!! Read more scripture as a class.

Tell them not to forget about praying and talking with God.

Have more prayer groups or have a discussion with the whole class on our faith.

Learn different parts of the Bible.

Talk more about what the Church opinion is on issues that they will have to deal with.