

# 2006 FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS

## I. ACADEMIC

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

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Algebra                     | French                 |
| Honors Algebra              | Spanish                |
| Algebra II / Trig           | Latin                  |
| Honors Algebra II / Trig    | Civics / Economics     |
| Geometry                    | History                |
| Literature / Comp II        | Old Testament          |
| English I                   | Creed & Christian Life |
| Honors English I            | Health / Gym           |
| Intro to Science            | Art Palette            |
| Integrated Science          | Computer Applications  |
| Advanced Integrated Science | Band                   |
| Biology                     | Choir                  |
| Honors Biology              | Study Hall             |

2. Indicate how prepared you were for **test-taking** in High School Check the appropriate box in the chart below for each test format.

Well Prepared ~ I'm doing well, few if any struggles  
 Prepared ~ I do well most of the time, a few struggles  
 Unprepared ~ I am having difficulty

|  | Well Prepared | Prepared | Unprepared |
|--|---------------|----------|------------|
| <b>Short Essay</b>                                   | 7             | 5        |            |
| <b>Long Essay</b>                                    | 7             | 5        |            |
| <b>Fill in Blank/Matching</b>                        | 8             | 4        |            |
| <b>Projects/Papers</b>                               | 7             | 4        | 2          |
| <b>Multiple Choice</b>                               | 10            | 2        |            |
| <b>Other:</b>  |               |          |            |
| <b>True/False; if false,<br/>make statement true</b> |               |          | 1          |
| <b>Grammar</b>                                       |               |          | 1          |
| <b>Labs</b>  |               |          | 1          |
| <b>Pop Quizzes</b>                                   |               | 1        |            |

## FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS(Continued)

3. Indicate how you are doing in the following **areas of study** in High School.  
Check the appropriate box in the chart below for each.

Well Prepared ~ I'm doing well, few if any struggles  
 Prepared ~ I do well most of the time, a few struggles  
 Unprepared ~ I am having difficulty

|                           | <b>Well Prepared</b> | <b>Prepared</b> | <b>Unprepared</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Homework</b>           | 4                    | 6               | 2                 |
| <b>Organization</b>       | 6                    | 5               | 1                 |
| <b>Tools/Technology</b>   | 2                    | 7               | 3                 |
| <b>Note-taking</b>        | 7                    | 4               | 1                 |
| <b>Religion</b>           | 7                    | 4               | 1                 |
| <b>Math</b>               | 11                   | 1               |                   |
| <b>Science</b>            | 2                    | 6               | 4                 |
| <b>Reading</b>            | 5                    | 7               |                   |
| <b>Writing Skills</b>     | 7                    | 5               |                   |
| <b>Social Studies</b>     | 4                    | 3               | 1                 |
| <b>Foreign Language</b>   | 4                    | 4               | 3                 |
| <b>Music</b>              | 3                    | 3               |                   |
| <b>Art</b>                | 7                    | 2               |                   |
| <b>Physical Education</b> | 9                    | 3               |                   |

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

- Better science program to feel more prepared for science at CC

- Organization: Teachers should motivate students.

Tools/Technology: The science program was horrible; all videos and almost no “hands on” activities

Note-Taking: Quizzes should be more on in-class lectures

Science: All videos; no hands on activities.

Religion: Focused on other religions. Must focus on our own instead of mythical religions.

Foreign Language: I was forced to do French because the Spanish program was so poor.

- In high school I take notes every day in science. At St. Thomas we didn't take notes often in science. I had a difficult time getting used to organizing and taking notes. Taking notes and finding the right information by myself was hard at first.

- I was unprepared for homework because there is much more in high school than at St. Thomas. For science, I was unprepared for labs. In biology you keep a lab book and need to write out entire labs quite often. I recommend making students do that there.

- Homework: I hate to say it, but I was overwhelmed with the amount of homework I got last year compared to now.

## FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS(Continued)

Notes: Didn't know how to write appropriate notes

Social Studies: Didn't know much

Foreign Language: I think we switched teachers too much, and they all had a different curriculum, so we only learned bits and pieces.

- In Science there should be more paper writing.

Foreign Language – Learn more than basic speaking skills

The science classes were boring and repetitive. The movies everyday did not help us in “real science”.

Simply putting a video in with no teaching was of little help. Spanish at St. Thomas was very poor with a different teacher every year. Half-way through the year the teachers were changed which caused further problems.

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

- My main concern is for the students entering Advanced Integrated Science. The videos did nothing for me and all of the fellow students I talked with. It is essential for more hand-on activities. Also the “skeleton project” wasted the whole 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Please consider dropping that.

- Encourage students to participate in honors courses, if they enjoy that subject.

- Make every grade count. At Catholic if you don't hand in a 7 point assignment, it hurts your grade a lot. Also, extra credit – show how well extra credit counts. I've had opportunities passed, and I regretted it in the long run. My grade could've went up immensely.

- More note taking. Also, learning some good study and test-taking skills.

- Better science. I didn't know a lot of things going into this year that other kids know.

- Gradually increase the amount of homework assigned. Don't give credit for trying. (That doesn't work here.)

- Writing papers – MLA Format

- A better science and social studies program.

- For English, better adverb and prepositions. Inconsistent years in Spanish made it a little tough to carry into high school.

# FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS(Continued)

## II. SOCIAL

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

|            |          |                  |                  |       |
|------------|----------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| Basketball | Art Club | Science Olympiad | Wrestling        | Golf  |
| Football   | Soccer   | Right to Life    | Math Competition | Rugby |
| Track      | Baseball | Tennis           | Lacrosse         |       |

2. Every freshman student experiences some anxiety before entering High School. Now that you've been there awhile, how comfortable do you feel?

Very Comfortable   9                        Comfortable   3                        Uncomfortable   

3 How long did it take you to feel comfortable socially?

1-4 weeks: 5                      4-8 weeks: 6                      full semester: 1                      still not comfortable:   

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

- Football helped me the most for friends and my self-esteem.
- Playing basketball helped a lot. Also attending before school starts stuff like open house (we were able to walk through our schedule) and the freshman dance.
- More new friends. Branch out your horizons. Also, join clubs / sports. You will find friends quickly. If that's not the type of thing, then you will definitely find them. There's a wide variety.
- My teachers are really nice. They make me feel very comfortable along with my new friends.
- Going to the varsity football games helped me the most, and that is where I met most of my friends.
- Really try fall sports. They make it so you know people before school starts.
- Talk to more people – stepping out of my comfort zone.
- Sports helped me make more friends and those friends introduced me to more people.
  - The Freshmen First Day introduced me to a few people. My classes and lunch led me to meet many friends. Freshman football – I met a lot of guys.
  - Football helped me meet new people before school actually started.

## FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS(Continued)

5. I see or experience pressure to:

|                                    | Often | Sometimes | Never |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| <b>Use drugs</b>                   | 1     | 12        | 8     |
| <b>Use alcohol</b>                 |       | 5         | 7     |
| <b>Be sexually active</b>          |       | 3         | 9     |
| <b>Smoke</b>                       | 3     | 1         | 6     |
| <b>Use inappropriate language</b>  | 8     | 4         |       |
| <b>Skip class</b>                  |       | 2         | 10    |
| <b>Cheat</b>                       | 2     | 8         | 2     |
| <b>Lie</b>                         | 3     | 7         | 2     |
| <b>Attend unsupervised parties</b> | 2     | 3         | 7     |
| <b>Fight</b>                       |       | 4         | 8     |
| <b>Discriminate racially</b>       | 1     | 6         | 5     |
| <b>Discriminate socially</b>       | 2     | 7         | 3     |

Other: Put people down; Wear name brands

6. How would you advise incoming Freshmen to handle peer pressure? Indicate how helpful each of the following were in helping you deal with peer pressure.

|                           | Very Helpful | Somewhat Helpful | Not at all Helpful |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>St. Thomas friends</b> | 6            | 5                | 1                  |
| <b>Other friends</b>      | 7            | 4                | 1                  |
| <b>Family</b>             | 8            | 4                |                    |
| <b>Clubs</b>              | 3            | 2                | 4                  |
| <b>Teams</b>              | 7            | 2                | 2                  |
| <b>Peer Ministry</b>      | 3            | 5                | 1                  |
| <b>School staff</b>       | 2            | 7                | 3                  |
| <b>Prayer</b>             | 5            | 7                |                    |

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

Nothing really, how someone is brought up gives them their social morals and values.

Nothing

Nothing

Keep them out of cliques

Get the kids to reach out to other schools more. I found that the kids that knew kids from other schools did better socially at CC. However, I don't think it's the school's responsibility, the kids have to reach out on their own.

I think the school should help plan more field trips and after-school activities. I always liked doing things with my class.

Encourage students to continue sports, make new friends, and join any extra-curricular.

I really don't think they can.

Have more "team building" things to have the class become closer so they can still be all good friends when they enter CC.

# FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS(Continued)

## III. SPIRITUAL

1. Do you attend Mass every weekend? (Circle one) YES 9 NO 2

2. In which of the following ministries do you participate either at school or at St. Thomas parish (Check all that apply):

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| _____ Usher                          | ___1___ Donut Ministry   |
| ___1___ Choir                        | ___1___ St. Thomas Community Dinners                               |
| _____ Lector                         | ___3___ Youth Ministry (ROC)                                       |
| _____ Children's Liturgy of the Word | ___1___ Students for Life  |
| ___1___ Eucharistic Minister         | _____ H.O.P.E. Volunteers  |
| _____ Parish Nursery                 | _____ Peer Ministry  |
| ___2___                              | Service Projects (specify) St. Thomas functions, Marywood clean-up |
| ___2___                              | Other (specify) volunteer at school, altar server                  |

3. Indicate how often you use the Bible for any of the following (check all that apply):

|                                   | Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Occasionally | Rarely, if ever |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>Personal Prayer or Reading</b> | 1     | 1      | 2       | 5            | 3               |
| <b>Liturgy Planning</b>           |       |        |         | 5            | 5               |
| <b>Bible Study Group</b>          |       |        |         |              | 10              |
| <b>Class Work</b>                 | 6     | 1      | 1       | 2            | 2               |
| <b>Other</b>                      |       |        |         |              |                 |

4. How prepared do you feel to answer questions in the following areas of your Catholic faith?

|                                | Very Prepared | Somewhat Prepared | Not at all Prepared |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Baptism</b>                 | 10            | 2                 |                     |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>          | 9             | 3                 |                     |
| <b>Eucharist</b>               | 10            | 2                 |                     |
| <b>Confirmation</b>            | 10            | 1                 | 1                   |
| <b>Morality &amp; Chastity</b> | 6             | 6                 |                     |

## FRESHMAN SURVEY RESULTS(Continued)

|   |   |    |   |
|---|---|----|---|
| <b>Scripture</b>                          | 2 | 9  | 1 |
| <b>Doctrine</b>                           | 1 | 11 |   |
| <b>Church History</b>                     |   | 9  | 3 |
| <b>Devotions to Mary &amp; the Saints</b> | 4 | 5  | 2 |
| <b>Mass</b>                               | 6 | 5  |   |

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

To continue to improve Catholic education

Explain the more complicated things such as confirmation, Devotion to Mary and the Saints more, go more deeply into them.

Really try to pray before each class. I know Mr. Carr would, but others didn't. It really gives you that extra push to finish class strong.

Encourage more youth group type activities.

St. Thomas should make sure all students participate in Friday's school Mass.

Teach more about the Old Testament, creed, Christian Life, give more tests.

Encourage students to find time for church, service, etc. Don't lose faith.

Focus more on our Catholic faith instead of the Egyptian, Greek and Roman faiths. I think you should make Mr. Keller teach Religion or History so you can get another teacher to focus on the other subject.

Use the Bible more for teaching during class.

Teach more about the history of our church.