

STRIVING FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At

Holy Spirit High School

With our

ACADEMIC MERIT PROGRAM

(AMP Policy)

Academic Merit Program (AMP)

1. Positive Behavioral Supports (9 Monthly Draws for 5 Prizes) - Preamble:

Students exhibiting positive, desired behaviors (identified and posted) will have their names placed into a container for 5 prize draws on the first school day of each month, for behaviors exhibited the previous month.

2. Attendance Lottery (Midyear Draw for 50 Prizes) – Preamble:

Students with perfect attendance for any one month in Term I will have their name entered once for the midyear draw for prizes. Students with perfect attendance in more than just the one month in Term I will have their names entered for the prize draw as follows:

- For just one month (entered once);
- For two months (entered twice more);
- For three months (entered four times more);
- For four months (entered 8 times more);
- For five months (entered 16 times more).

Students with 0 unexcused late arrivals **and** perfect attendance for Term I will also have their name entered for one special prize draw.

3. Final Exam (End-of-Year Opt-Out Program) – Preamble:

Each student must write a formal midyear examination in courses so designated by the Eastern School District, as per the course descriptors.

Each student must write formal criterion-referenced tests administered by the Department of Education.

Each student must write formal end-of-year examinations in courses designated by the Department of Education as requiring a Public Examination.

Each student registered in Advanced Placement courses must write Formal College Board end-of-year examinations in May.

The 'opt out list of courses' includes all those Level 1-2 courses with formal midyear/final examinations, and all similar Level III courses that do not require a Public Examination. However, no student can opt out of writing a final examination in any course in which the level of achievement on May 31 is less than 60%.

1. The Conditions for Opt-Out:

- a) Student misses no more than 5 days from school opening through May 31, regardless of reason (definition of 'exceptional attendance').
- b) Student accumulates no more than 15 unexcused 'late arrivals' for school in the morning, after recess, and after lunch from September 5 through May 31.
- c) Student is present for all tests, completes all assigned work, and presents no behavior/discipline concerns.
- d) Student cannot have a failing grade in more than one course.
- e) Student must opt out of exams beginning with the course(s) in which s/he has the highest achievement on the May 31st report card.
- f) Student must have written parent and teacher permission to opt out of each final examination.
- g) Student who does opt out of final examination will have the percentage that was allotted to that final exam dispersed evenly across the remaining categories.
- h) Student who misses a midyear examination, regardless of reason, must write the final examination.
- i) Student absence, regardless of reason, counts as day lost, with exception of death in immediate family, hospitalization or medical directive to remain at home, specialist appointments (verified by specialist medical note).
- j) Student who misses more than five days but attains overall achievement level of 85% or greater may opt out of all designated final examinations, with parent and teacher permission.

2. Required 'Overall' Achievement Levels for Opt-Out:

60% - 69%	Students may opt out of one final examination
70% - 79%	Students may opt out of two final examinations
80% - 84%	Students may opt out of three final examinations
85% - 100%	Students may opt out of all eligible final examinations

3. Daily Attendance Defined for Opt-Out:

Present AM	Present for at least two full periods of three possibles
Present PM	Present for one full period of two possibles
Present	Present for at least four full periods of five possibilities

These definitions of 'present' significantly reduce late arrivals and/or early departures.

4. Summary Comment re 'The Opt-Out Portion' of AMP:

Each student will normally write formal end-of-year exams; to do so is not a punishment. Rather, the privilege of 'opting out' has to be viewed as a reward for any student who has achieved exceptional attendance, as it was defined earlier, met work and behaviour expectations of the school, and reached a certain level of academic achievement.

Any student who misses more than 5 days, whatever the reason, must write all formal end-of-year exams **unless** s/he has achieved an overall achievement level of 85% or higher.

Any student, who misses a formal midyear examination in any course, whatever the reason, must write the formal end-of-year exam in that course, regardless of the overall achievement level or achievement in the particular courses(s).

Conclusion

Holy Spirit High School hopes to raise achievement levels by all students, particularly those that are currently failing and/or performing below average. We believe our AMP Policy, which links student punctuality, attendance, behaviour and academic performance, and offers positive reinforcements throughout the year, will help us achieve both our school development goals, which relate to improved student achievement and a safe learning environment.