

GERALDTON COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL
2008 – 2009
Learning Skills, Grade 9, Open – GLS 10 – COURSE OUTLINE

Teacher: Mr. S. Wilson

Sept 2007 – Feb 2008

September 2, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am your child's teacher for the Grade Nine Learning Strategies course and I wanted to make you aware of what this course is about, in addition to some classroom and school-wide policies. I have included some day-to-day housekeeping issues below so that you are aware of my expectations. Please take the time to go over this course outline with your son or daughter to ensure they understand the requirements outlined below.

The Learning Strategies course is designed to teach and reinforce learning skills and strategies necessary for student success in high school and life. These skills include things such as time management, organization, note and test-taking, writing and math skills and conflict resolution. The course is designed around the best-selling book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. The course is also accompanied by a weekly video-based lesson called *Premier GO!*, which teaches personal and life management skills.

The majority of assignments for this course will be completed in class and students are given a due date and reasonable amounts of time to complete their work. If conflicts with due dates arise due to unforeseen circumstances it is expected that students or parents will communicate with the school as soon as possible. If a student is absent for any reason, I expect that the student will be responsible to find out what lessons and/or assignments were missed when they return. I am available most days during the lunchtime activity period to provide extra help and to provide a time to catch up on missed work.

Students are expected to be on time for class, with all required books and materials, ready for the day's work. Students arriving late are expected to get a late slip from the attendance office. Students arriving late for class more than three (3) times will be subject to the provisions of the school late policy. Prior to this, students may be counselled as to the importance of being on time for class, may serve detentions and will be required to catch up on missing work.

The first Progress Report is scheduled for October 9h followed by a Parent's Night on October 15th. At this time I will indicate how your child's progress is in each of the four Achievement Categories by providing them with a level along with a report on Learning Skills.

The Midterm Report Card will be sent home in mid-November, which will be comprised of a mark, along with another report on Learning Skills. The second Progress Report will follow on December 12th.

If you have any questions at all during the semester regarding your son or daughter's progress, please feel free to call me at the school at 854-0130. I am very interested in keeping parents/guardians informed of their child's progress.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Mr. S. Wilson.

Student Signature
Parent/Guardian Signature

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GERALDTON COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL
2008-2009

GLS 10: Learning Strategies 1: Skills for Success in Secondary School, Open, Grade 9

Teacher: Mr. S. Wilson

September 2008 - February 2009

Curriculum Policy Document: The Ontario Curriculum, Guidance & Career Education, 2006

Prerequisite: Grade 8

Credit Value: 1.0

Rationale:

This course emphasizes key reading, writing, oral language, and thinking skills that students need for success in secondary schools and their daily lives. Students will study plays, short stories, and newspaper and magazine articles, and will describe and create media works. An important focus will be the correct use of spoken and written language.

Texts/Materials:

- *Premier Go Program* (Based on book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*)
- *Learn Smarts: Strategies to Succeed in School and Life*

Additional materials from a variety of sources, (i.e. print, Internet, film) will also be used to supplement the course.

Statement of Evaluation:

<u>TERM</u>		<u>FINAL</u>	
<i>Knowledge and Understanding</i>	20%	<i>Culminating Task(s)</i>	15%
<i>Thinking/Inquiry</i>	20%	<i>Final Exam</i>	15%
<i>Communication</i>	15%		
<i>Application</i>	15%		
TOTAL	70%		30%

The assessment used will include a variety of methods: classroom tests and quizzes, projects, portfolios, journal and notebook checks, self and peer evaluation, rubrics, checklists, oral presentations and classroom observations. The final evaluation is based on a combination of a culminating performance task and a final exam.

In addition, students will be evaluated with respect to the following learning skills: 1) **Works Independently** 2) **Teamwork** 3) **Organization** 4) **Work Habits/Homework** 5) **Initiative**. This will be shown separately on the report card in the form of a letter designation as follows: **E**=Excellent **G**=Very Good **S**=Satisfactory **N**=Needs Improvement

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Unit Titles and Sequencing:

Part One	Introduction to Course	1 Week
Part Two	Learn It, Don't Sweat It	3 Week
Part Three	Practice Your Skills	5 Weeks
Part Four	Explore Your Opportunities	5 Weeks
Part Five	From Here to There	2 Weeks

Specific Expectations:

- Students are expected to maintain a binder and notes organized according to their teacher's instructions. Students are also expected to be on time for class with **all** materials required for the lesson including books, pen/pencil and paper. Students arriving late, (more than 20 minutes), are expected to get a late slip from the Attendance Office. Students will be responsible for making up time lost due to lateness in the form of detentions. Students who are habitually late will be subject to the school's late policy.
- A student returning to class after any absence is expected to have an admit slip issued by the Attendance Office prior to the start of class. Exceptions are given due to school-related events, no buses due to weather or absences authorized by an outslip.
- **Students who miss class are expected to get that day's assignment from another student or the teacher on their own. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of all assignments.** If a student knows they will be away, please let the teacher know in advance.

Late Assignments Policy:

Students are given a fair and reasonable amount of time to complete assignments. Major assignments will be assigned a due date and a closure date, which will be three days after the due date. This will be the final date that the assignment may be submitted for evaluation. Minor assignments will be accepted until the end of each respective unit. The teacher will be available in the classroom, (Room 28) most days to provide extra assistance as required, between 12:05 - 12:35, or by appointment.

Plagiarism and Academic Fraud:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated at Geraldton Composite High School. For further information and consequences, please see the *Geraldton Composite High School Code of Conduct*.