

FRESHMAN YEAR GRADES LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE SUCCESS!

Grades matter. If you want to play college baseball, grades matter A LOT. Time after time, we see that GPA's make the the difference in the college recruiting process.

Now that you are a freshman, **your grades now count toward your high school GPA.** Three years from now, you will be filling out college applications. Every application will ask for your GPA and a copy of your high school transcript.

In baseball, your skill level and athleticism as a freshman doesn't count as much as your skill & talent level after your Junior year.

GPA's are different -- they are cumulative. Sometimes, freshmen do not realize this simple fact -- **your grades as a freshman count JUST AS MUCH as your grades as a junior or senior.**

Here is an example for you.

Say a player gets the following GPA's:

Freshman - 3.6

Soph - 3.2

Junior - 3.6

Senior - 3.2

The result of this would be an overall GPA of 3.4. Pretty good.

But, say that same player got a 2.5 GPA his freshman year instead of a 3.6.

Do you know what he would have to achieve during his sophomore, junior and senior years to graduate with the same 3.4 GPA?

To overcome this bad start, he would have to achieve a 3.7 GPA for *all three years* to pull his overall GPA up to a 3.4 by the end of his senior year.

So, his grades would need to look like this:

Freshman - 2.5

Soph - 3.7

Junior - 3.7

Senior - 3.7

Which scenario looks easier to you?

Don't put yourself in the situation of playing catch up. It is hard to do. Plus, freshman classes are a lot easier than junior and senior classes. It gets harder and harder every year to play catch up.

So, the point of this email is simple -- Get off to a good start with grades during your freshman year.

What are the common excuses that we hear about why players "mess up" during their freshman years?:

- They don't hand in homework (the easiest points to get).
- They procrastinate, waiting until the last minute for assignments and studying
- They have bad study habits
- They spend more time on Facebook than on Textbook

Essentially, they do not take school seriously and don't put their best effort forward.

It is almost November. You are well into your first semester of high school. If you are doing well, congratulations and keep up the good work!!

If you are not doing well so far, fix the problem NOW. Talk to guidance counselors, teachers and your parents. Fix the problem before it gets too late to impact first semester grades. Your grades are not going to change unless you change something. It is your responsibility.

Remember, these grades count and will be with you for the next 3 years. Getting off to a good start is one of the most important success factors in high school. It is like throwing a first pitch strike.

Why Is This Important?

College coaches look to provide baseball recruits with academic money due to the scholarship restrictions that they face. For example, a program only has 11.7 scholarships to distribute amongst a roster of 25 in Division 1. So because of this, many coaches hope to be able to use Academic Scholarships to help a player pay for school.

Examples of Academic Scholarships

Here are some numbers on how academic scholarships work at schools such as Bradley University and Lewis University.

- **Bradley is a private school located in Peoria, IL. We compete in one of the best conferences in the country, the Missouri Valley Conference.**
- **Bradley has academic scholarships based on GPA & test scores as follows:**
 - **21-23 ACT / 3.00 GPA / Top 33% / = \$3,000**
 - **24-25 ACT / 3.25 GPA / Top 25% / = \$6,000**
 - **26-27 ACT / 3.50 GPA / Top 20% / = \$9,000**
 - **28 + ACT / 3.75 GPA / Top 10% / = \$12,000**
- **Lewis University has an online calculator at**
<http://tcc.noellewitz.com/%28S%28d55cthidskkuqgqnsreu53kk%29%29/Lewis%20University/Freshman%20Students> **You can punch in your GPA and ACT score and find out what Academic scholarship you would receive per year.**
- **Examples**
 - **3.0 gpa and 25 ACT = \$7,500 per year**
 - **3.25 gpa and 25 ACT = \$10,000 per year**

We hope that this kind of info helps inspire all our student athletes to keep aiming for that "3.0 and 25" while they are here at Lockport!