



top of  
the class

Alyssa Maharani, photo [www.photolibrary.com](http://www.photolibrary.com)

Good Grades Gone Great:

# STRATEGIES TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR TO PULL BACK FROM SUMMER RELAXATION MODE AND BACK TO HITTING THE BOOKS! SPECIAL FOR OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL ISSUE, HET TAKES STUDY TIPS FROM YOUR PEERS WHO ARE NO STRANGERS TO HARVESTING THOSE MUCH-DESIRED STRAIGHT A'S. GET READY FOR A FABULOUS NEW SCHOOL YEAR, AND CLAIM THOSE MARKS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!

## FIND MOTIVATION

It is important to stay motivated because it's the thing that gets us through the long school days. Why do you want to get good grades? Is it because you want to enter that prestigious university? Or do you want to make your parents happy and proud of your achievements? Or maybe it's that shiny reward your parents promised you if you get those awesome marks at school? Think about these motivations every time you feel lazy and feel like giving up on school. You can remind yourself by putting a list of your dreams about school on your study table. Make a list of the things you can achieve by getting good marks at school, and remind yourself of the advantages of working hard for those great school report cards!

## ATTEND THE CLASSES & PAY ATTENTION

Try to attend every single class at school and don't ever skip any of your classes unless it's absolutely necessary to do so. You don't want to miss important information by not coming to class, and of course, this will affect your grade in the long-term. In class, try to focus on your work – as much as you love to talk and play with your friends. As boring as this may seem, at worst, you can still catch up with your friends during breaks and after school. Listen to the teachers' questions because usually the things that they ask you in class are the questions they will ask in tests.

"I skipped one of my classes with a friend last time because I thought it was an easy class that I'd already aced. Man, I was wrong! Not only did the teachers catch us skipping, but I also missed a whole class covering the information that was going to be tested on in the final exam. I got a few consecutive after-school detentions, and also a not-so-great grade for the class I thought I'd already aced. I wish I hadn't skip class that day!"

- Safira\* (16)

## DO ALL THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNED AND TURN IT IN ON TIME

This might sound very obvious, but how many of you actually do ALL the homework assigned by the teacher? Even if the teacher won't actually check your work, you should still do the homework, as it will help build your skills in the subject you're currently studying. In the end, this will help you when you have to study for the final exams or tests, as you will have less to cram before the big test.



### MANAGE YOUR TIME WISELY

Set up a plan or a strategy to tackle all your subjects. Think about how much time you have to spend to complete each assignment you are given, how much time you need to spend socializing and how much time of rest you need for the day. If you follow the plan closely, you should be able to cruise through and get all these three things done. However, it is important to remember that sometimes you might be overwhelmed by the number of tasks or things you need and want to do. The only way to cope with this is to prioritize.

"I used to be so good at chemistry, but lately, my [poor] time management has screwed up my score because I looked down on the subject. I didn't study for so long up to the point where I even forgot that there was a test the following day. I stayed up all night long so the next day I would look sick, so then I can skip the class to go the nurse's office. I got a horrible fever like I expected, and I went to the nurse to skip the class. After everything that I'd gone through, it turns out that the test was cancelled! All that trouble for nothing! And that was because I didn't manage my time wisely."  
- Davin\* (17)

### TAKE NOTES AT SCHOOL SYSTEMATICALLY

There are two common mistakes that people make when taking notes in class. The first one is that people often write too much. Notes are supposed to be short, simple and sweet to make it easier for you to review the subject. Don't copy a chunk of passage straight from the lecture or from the textbook. Never use a sentence when you can use a phrase, or a phrase when you can use a word. The second mistake is that people often don't have a system to work with. Find out how you'd best learn. Perhaps an audio note of the lecture may work for you best, or maybe notes with lots of colorful pictures & doodles. Whatever method of note taking you choose, make sure it works for you!

### DO NOT LEAVE THINGS UNTIL LAST MINUTE

Procrastination is the evil of all high achieving students. Cramming does not work since our brains are practically unable to digest large chunks of information in a short of period of time. Divide up the study material or the assignment into tiny little tasks that you can tackle periodically. That way, you can pull less all-nighters and sleep more during those intense last few nights before the project or exam is due.

"So I had four months to do interviews, observations, watch documentaries and read books to make a 15 minute presentation. However, I left ALL the interviews, observations and organizing them in the LAST week. I had to write summaries and reflections for each of them, and make a video for my presentation in four days! I did get a 100% for that project, but all the cramming was crazy! I didn't get any sleep for those four days, and I was so tired afterwards. Never am I gonna procrastinate that much again!"  
- Verena Channa Potter (17)

## cinta laura kieh1

YOU MAY KNOW HER AS CINTA LAURA THE PERFORMER, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE ALSO MAINTAINS A 4.0-GPA AND SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY - JAKARTA? OUR MODEL STUDENT TELLS HET HOW SHE MAINTAINS HER STRAIGHT A'S WHILE JUGGLING HER BUSY WORKING SCHEDULE!



## tips

1

**DETERMINATION** (will power) is the key. As an individual, determination helps us work hard to achieve what we want. In my case, I am always determined to get the highest grades possible, thus, making myself put a lot of effort into every work assigned.

2

**COMPETITIVENESS.** OK, not everyone needs to acquire a competitive nature to excel at school. Nonetheless, it works very well for me because I constantly try to measure up to or become better than those who have higher grades than I do.

3

**GOOD TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS.** Set up a calendar or a timetable in your room or in your computer. In the timetable, make a schedule of which subjects need to be completed and how long it will approximately take. This way, no cramming will have to be encountered (if the schedule is followed). This will also prevent procrastinating.

4

**BE PREPARED** to pull off an all-nighter if you are a perfectionist. I would often stay up until 3 a.m. due to the fact that I do not stop working until I am sure that my work will receive good results.



**Fenny Olivia Teja**

Born in Padang, this 30-year-old began her career as a freelance makeup artist. In 2007, she took a short makeup course in Singapore, where she helped on photo shoots for *Vanilla* and *Seventeen* magazines. Fenny has been working at Le Salon Lifestyle for the last 2 years, while assisting on a number of runway shows for the likes of Jean Paul Gaultier, Roberto Cavalli and Tippy & Matthew.



**Oscar Daniel**

Surabaya-born Oscar Daniel graduated from Tarumanegara University. Already an expert makeup artist, he is constantly improving his skills, appearing in numerous fashion and lifestyle magazines. He has worked with stars like Syahrani, Nadine Chandrawinata, VJ Cathy and models such as Karenina, Dominique, Chantal and Davina.



**Alyssa Maharani**

HET's busy 17-year-old intern this month is currently enrolled in Jakarta International School, entering her senior year this school year. Besides busying herself with her part-time job as a reporter for Global TV's *High School*, she is also one of the members of the Jakarta chapter of the National Honor Society. The former STAR TEEN is now busily involved with many school organizations, and can't wait to get back to school from her summer holidays! Catch this overachieving upperclassman's back-to-school tips in our special rubrics!



**Rudy Chandra**

Rudy Chandra graduated from the Susan Budihardjo fashion school in 1988. Since 2004, he's been a member of APPMI – The Association of Entrepreneur and Fashion Designers of Indonesia. His works have been presented on catwalks in Vancouver, Canada (2001) and Guang Zhou, China (2007, 2008). You can see his master works of ready-to-wear evening gowns and wedding dresses in his boutiques which are located in The Catwalk, Kelapa Gading Mall and at D'designer, Pasaraya Grande.



**Ajeng Raviando**

Ajeng graduated from the University of Indonesia with a degree in Psychology. She's the founder of a mental health clinic in Tebet called Teman Hati Konseling, as well as a student counselor in LaSalle College International. Between juggling her job and family, this loving mother of two often contributes her expertise in Psychology in various print media, radio and television shows. This month, she's back in *HighEnd teen* again as a contributor for our Relationship rubric!



**Ariels**

This month's Auto rubric had a helping hand from Mr. Ariels, Service Advisor from Honda Pondok Pinang. For the past three years, he has been assisting and advising Honda owners on how to keep their rides in perfect condition. Don't miss his tips in HET's Auto cheat sheet, made especially for you!

# CONTRIBUTORS

