

**Freshman
Summer Reading Project**

*What Makes
a Jesuit School
Jesuit?*

Rockhurst High School Theology Department

Dear Freshman Class:

Welcome to your first class of Theology at Rockhurst High School.

The summer reading you are about to embark on, will combine online research with your own reflection and composition. It is designed to help you and your family become familiar with Rockhurst spirituality. You will learn about the person of Jesus, how Ignatius reflects Christ's mission, the Jesuits, their traditions, and the principles of Ignatian education.

In this assignment you will begin to compile your Theology notes for your freshman school year. You will need a three-ring binder in which to preserve a variety of Jesuit documents and your own reflections. Begin to build your binder by typing or neatly writing (double space, one side of the paper) the answers to the twenty questions which are provided below. Follow each instruction completely. Answer each question fully in complete sentences, and go for the "Magis" as you aim for high school quality work. Create a title page that bears your name.

In addition, to help you in this project, you can use www.jesuit.org or sites at any of the other Jesuit high schools or universities, as well as other online and hard copy resources such as the Catholic Encyclopedia www.newadvent.org. (click on the Encyclopedia tab to access the Encyclopedia).

Your project will be evaluated during the first few weeks of school, and will form the basis for class formation, discussion and first semester projects.

Have a great summer.

Jay Coleman
Theology Department Chairman
and the Freshman Theology Teachers

Freshman Theology Summer Reading

1. Read a brief biography of Ignatius of Loyola. Describe what you consider the five most fascinating aspects of Ignatius' life in at least one sentence for each aspect.
2. What books did Ignatius read while he recovered from his war injuries? Name the spiritual books that have had the most impact on you. In what ways do you think Rockhurst High School will help encourage your spiritual life? Answer in at least three complete sentences.
3. How did the pioneering missionary Pierre-Jean De Smet's geographical explorations help with the establishment of RHS? Please answer in a complete paragraph of at least five sentences.
4. In our context, what does "Jesuit" mean? Describe the relationship Ignatius had with Jesus. Respond in at least three complete sentences.
5. What does "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" mean? Give a one-sentence translation. Then explain in a complete paragraph of five sentences how this definition applies to you.
6. What does "Magis" mean? In what area of your life are you becoming or exhibiting "Magis"? Define, then explain in at least complete three sentences.
7. Find Peter Hans Kolvenbach's five qualities of the "well-rounded person" in the "Jesuit Traditions" section or by searching "religious" in the RHS website. List the qualities, and for each give one sentence of explanation. Next, explain the qualities of the Graduate at Graduation to your parent/s. Ask them which quality was most important in their decision to choose RHS for you. Summarize their answer in a three-sentence paragraph.
8. What are the "three Cs" that distinguish a "Man for Others"? List each "C" with an example of a person you know personally. Describe each example in a short paragraph.
9. Where is your sacred space that will enrich your relationship with God as you pray? Draw a sketch on a piece of plain 8-1/2 x 11 white paper. Sign your sketch. On the back of the paper describe your sacred space in one paragraph. Three-hole punch and place in your binder.
10. Using the RHS website, find the student dropoutmyth.com site. Explore the site and answer the interview page questions in complete sentences.
11. What decade was RHS established? Talk to your parents or grandparents, and in one paragraph write about any event that occurred in your extended family that decade.

12. How many Jesuit high schools are in the JSEA? In one paragraph compare the mission Statement of RHS with that of any other non-Missouri Jesuit high school that most interests you.
13. How many semesters of theology are required by RHS? List the individual classes by year.
14. What five Jesuit Universities or Colleges would most interest you in four years as an RHS graduate? Why? You can find some on the list of universities and colleges that accepted Rockhurst High School graduates. Use complete sentences.
15. How many service hours to the community are you required to offer this year? Download a copy of the “service hours” form, fill out completed hours, and place in your binder. Or by the end of the first Friday of classes, visit the RHS Pastoral Office for a form. Place it in your notebook.
16. Use the Rockhursths.edu site to find what RHS clubs are service oriented. List three clubs that are primarily service-oriented and explain their purpose. What does Regis Club need next year?
17. From your copy of the online Rockhurst High School Parent-Student Handbook, locate and write out the RHS Mission Statement.
18. As an incoming Freshman, you have ideas of what Rockhurst will be like. List (any) three expectations that you have of Rockhurst High School. In two sentences each explain the reasons for each expectation.
19. Name and describe three gifts or talents you possess and how you might share these with the RHS community over the next four years. How do you see any of these talents as falling under one of the five qualities of the “Rockhurst Profile of the Graduate at Graduation” as found in the Parent-Student Handbook? Explain.
20. Finally, list three goals you hope to accomplish while at Rockhurst. Be sure your goals are specific, realistic and measurable. In other words:
 1. Clearly identify what it is that you hope to accomplish
 2. Be certain that your goals are challenging, but not impossible, and
 3. Make sure you are able to measure your progress towards the goal.

Go for the Magis!