

THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

HOPE

WEEKLY GUIDE

LIVE

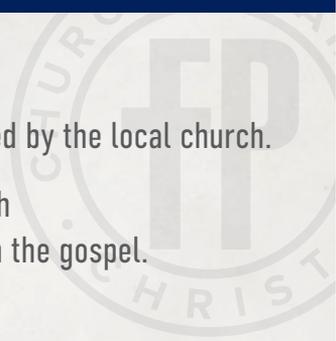
MONTH 8, VOLUME 3



FIRST PRIORITY

is a campus evangelism strategy implemented by the local church.

MISSION: To unite the local body of Christ with a plan of action to influence the schools with the gospel.



FIRST PRIORITY BUILDS NETWORKS OF SUPPORT



Students “The Players In the Game” Taking The Love & Message of Jesus Christ As Missionaries To Their School.



Parents “The Fans In The Stands” Praying For, Supporting & Discipling Their Children.



Churches “The Coaches On The Sidelines” Equipping, Encouraging and Empowering Students.



Educators “The Referees Of The Game” Providing Guidance and Direction.



Business / Community Leaders “The Owners Of The Team” Investing Leadership, Mentoring and Resources In Their Community.



“First Priority is the most innovative way to reach a city for Christ. It unites our local churches together as one to make a difference.”

– Dr. Jay Strack, President of Student Leadership University

PLANNING GUIDE

Help Week:

Host:

Leadership speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Overcome Week:

Host:

Leadership speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Prepare Week:

Host:

Faith story 1:

Faith story 2: (optional)

Faith story 3: (optional)

Behind the scenes organizer:

Engage Week:

Host:

Activity Leader:

Gospel speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Host: Welcomes, opens in prayer, introduces the week, introduces the speaker, makes announcements, talks through response cards, thanks everyone, and dismisses.

Behind the scenes organizer: Makes necessary arrangements for (but doesn't do it all him/herself) greeters (who also hand out response cards), food, decor, printing, music.

YOUTHPASTORSUMMIT.COM

YOUTH PASTOR SUMMIT

Free 2-Day Conference

AS A GIFT TO STUDENT PASTORS,
VOLUNTEERS, AND EDUCATORS

ORLANDO: March 19-20, 2018

DALLAS: April 9-10, 2018

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: April 16-17, 2018

NASHVILLE: April 23-24, 2018

Speakers Include:



Jeff Wallace



Levi Lusko



Eugene Cho



Danielle Strickland



Brad Lomenick



Greg Stier

...and many more



Brent Crowe



Bob Goff



Ben Trueblood



Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.



Megan Fate Marshman



David Nasser

Register AT YOUTHPASTORSUMMIT.COM

Youth Pastor Summit is an Extension of Student Leadership University
in Partnership with LifeWay Students  LIFEWAYSTUDENTS

LIVE

Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: A time for student leaders to equip their peers to become missionaries to their school, as they plan and pray for the month of campus ministry ahead.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Help Week
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club time

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

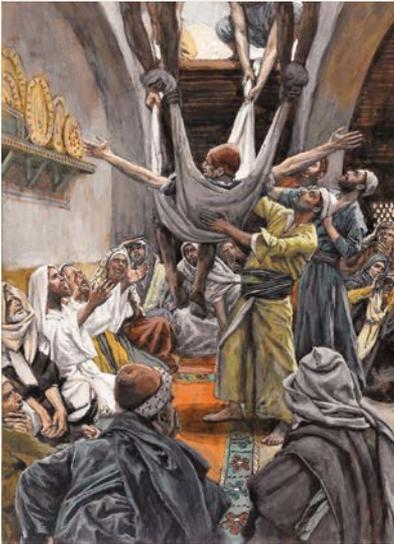
- **Assigned Leader Opens:** "Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. This month we are discussing what it means to live in the madness and the impact that has on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about why living in the madness is vital to reaching our school with the gospel."



DISCUSSION: Breaking Through the Madness (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Today I would like to begin by reading a passage from Mark chapter 2:

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was laying on." (Mark 2:2-4 NIV)



We know that Jesus was God in human flesh and He had all the power to forgive sin and to heal people. In verse five, the Bible says that Jesus saw their faith. What was their faith? Well, these four friends cared so much for their friend they did whatever was necessary to get him to Jesus. These guys went to great lengths to dig down through the roof and lower their friend down in front of Jesus. They had enough faith that Jesus could heal him. I am sure they thought for a minute that this is madness to try and pull this off. I am sure the people that were crowded in the room thought these guys are crazy.

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "You're your sins are forgiven." Now some teacher of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in the hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these strange things? Which is easier: to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" (Mark 2:5-12 ESV)

LIVE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

This man is lowered down in front of Jesus and He says, “your sins are forgiven.” Can you imagine what a shocking event this was? I am sure these four friends and even the paralytic did not see that first response coming. Their goal was to try to get the paralytic to walk, not to have his sins forgiven. It has been said by many great biblical teachers that “Jesus knew the greatest need for any human being was their forgiveness of sin.”

There are all kinds of things in life that we need, but there is not one thing that is better than the forgiveness of our sin. You might live to be 100 years old and have a great life and a great family. You might have been a good person by the world’s standards, but if you never had your sin forgiven you would live this life and the remainder of eternity separated from God. Good people don’t experience God for eternity. Only people who except Jesus’ forgiveness do.

In this time of March Madness will you try something crazy? Will you start to pray that God will help you see people the way He does? Will you be crazy enough to believe that God can use you to bring your friends and classmates to Jesus? If so, God may put you into a situation that seems like madness but turns into a pivotal moment that changes someone else’s eternity.



ACTION CHALLENGES:

- 1. Group Challenge:** Be missional here at school. Consider how you can pray to ask God to give you someone to share the gospel with this week. Especially someone who you may not always be around, someone that sharing with may be a little bit of madness.
- 2. Share Challenge:** Take a moment to write a daily reminder for yourself on a sticky note or on your phone notes app. Use this reminder to help you be focused on who you are praying for and why each day.
- 3. Prayer Challenge:** Have someone close in prayer for your group to each accept the challenge of living in the madness this week for the gospel.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Overcome Week.



WHY IS TRAINING STUDENT LEADERS TO SHARE THE HOPE OF CHRIST SO IMPORTANT?

Last school year over 2,000 students were trained as leaders and 9,000 of their peers responded to the good news they shared in FP clubs.

#studentsreachstudents
#firstpriority

LIVE

Overcome Week Leader Guide

Overcome: A time for student leaders to encourage their peers to overcome their fears of sharing the Gospel.



CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Overcome Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** "Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Overcome week, which is where we encourage each other in how to overcome obstacles of sharing the gospel. This month we are discussing what it means to live in the madness and the impact that has on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about overcoming obstacles to sharing our faith.

DISCUSSION: How Can I Know (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: There is an incredible story in the Bible found in Acts 8. Philip is a follower of Jesus, who you could say has been living in the madness. People are finding salvation in Christ radically throughout the land. Magicians, soldiers, samaritan families and more. All of this is happening while the Church is being persecuted like never before. The Church is young and vibrant, and God's followers are willing to do just about anything for the sake of the gospel, including literally giving their lives for it.

In the text starting at verse 26, Philip hears the Lord tell him to go south on a road, so he does. As he is walking, he runs into a government official from Ethiopia who has traveled to Jerusalem to worship. This official is no every day guy, the bible tells us he is in charge of all the treasure that is in the Ethiopian queens kingdom. Reality is in normal circumstances Philip would have never approached this officials caravan, much less spoken to him. It could have cost him his life.

However, Philip knew that God had sent him on this mission for this moment and the spirit of the Lord had spoken, so he did just that. As Philip approaches this man's chariot he asks him a simple question. "Do you understand what you are reading?" The official answers back, "How can I unless someone guides me." Turns out the official was reading from an old testament scroll, but frankly had no idea what the text meant (*ever been there*).



The official invites Philip into his chariot, and Philip begins to walk him through the story of the gospel. By the time Philip has finished sharing all the good news of Jesus and his desire for the official to be saved and baptized, the official is so fired up that he sees a body of water and says

"what would prevent me from being baptized right now?" So they do just that!

This moment in Acts reminds me how deeply God is willing to be involved in our every day lives when we allow him to be. Think about it, all Philip heard in his time of prayer was "hey man walk this direction on this road." In the mean time God knew that this official and Philip would have never connected in life otherwise, but the gospel had a plan for both that day.

LIVE Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

Think about the roads that you will walk today, the hallways in your school, the street you live on, even the parking lot as you enter into your job place or somewhere you take music lessons. God is inviting you to simple obedience and then planning for you to live in the madness by sharing his story with others who he has also prepared to meet you!

As we finish today, let me ask you, are you ready to live in the madness? I believe even today, God may be sending you to someone to help them truly know Jesus as Lord and Savior. What an incredible moment God is going to give you so they they too can know.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: I mentioned this earlier, but what are some of the roads that the Lord may be calling you to walk down today in simple obedience.

Discussion Option 2: The Bible says that we are to be ready to give an answer for our faith in Jesus. Do you know what you will say when you meet someone today who wants to understand why you are a Christ follower?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

1. **Group Challenge:** Take a moment to encourage one another in the simple things of the gospel. Ask one another about their daily time in discussion with God, in the scriptures and encourage them in their growth in Christ no matter where they are in the journey.
2. **Personal Challenge:** Don't underestimate your story in Christ. No matter where you are in your walk with Christ, God can and will use you if you are willing. So take a moment to thank God for your story.
3. **Prayer Challenge:** Lastly, get into groups of three or four and spread out. Take 2 minutes and take turns praying for each other that God will give you boldness this week, even to the point of calling some of what you experience, living in the madness.



WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Prepare Week.

THE SONG YOU KNOW,
THE STORY YOU DON'T

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

IN THEATERS SPRING 2018

AN ERWIN BROTHERS FILM



It's the song that brings ultimate hope to so many. Next spring, MercyMe's hit song will encourage people in a whole new way when it comes to life on the big screen! A gripping reminder of the power of forgiveness, **I CAN ONLY IMAGINE** beautifully illustrates that no one is ever too far from God's love—or from an eternal home in Heaven.

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LIVE

Prepare Week Leader Guide

Prepare Week: A time for students to learn how to share their story of what their life was like without Christ in contrast to their new life with Christ.



CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Prepare Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club
- Print "Appendix A – Your Faith Story" (1 per student) if you want to have every student attending club working on their testimony at the same time (recommended at least once a semester). Faculty sponsors can usually print these for you if given enough notice

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Explanation

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** "Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Prepare Week, which is where we practice sharing our personal story about how we came to know Jesus."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Students Giving Testimonies:** Assigned Leader Suggestion: "Today, my friend <insert name> is going to share their story. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. At the end, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share."

LIVE Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

TESTIMONY TIME: (15 minutes)

Share Testimonies

- › Student 1 Testimony = _____

- › Student 2 Testimony = _____

- › Student 3 Testimony = _____

- **Leader Host:** Thank you for sharing, <insert name>. Now let's take a minute to share some positive feedback about how they did. Also, feel free to ask them questions about their story.
- **(Optional)** If you are working on testimonies collectively, pass out *Appendix A – Your Faith Story* and read/explain/discuss each step.

TESTIMONY WRAP UP:

- **Leader Host:** "Let's take the next couple of minutes to give positive feedback to those who shared about how they did and feel free to ask them questions about their story."

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage week next week. They can be friends or people you barely know, but how will they hear the gospel if no one ever invites anyone to hear more about Him?
- **Prayer Challenge:** Pray daily for the students in your school who need to hear the hope of Jesus Christ and for Christ-following students to be encouraged to be bold in talking with others about Jesus.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Engage Week. Remind everyone to bring a guest because it will be a fun atmosphere with food and a game, as well as a student giving a gospel presentation.

FIRST PRIORITY IS INFLUENCING STUDENT LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THEIR SCHOOL.

- 25 Million Teenagers
- 41,000 schools
- 325,000 churches
- 1640 Coordinators
- 100 Regional chapters
- 1 FP Family



**ROCK IN THE
POND THEORY**

Do you know a community that needs a First Priority movement started? Throughout the year we train FP Coordinators to lead this movement into their community. Go here to get started;

firstpriority.club/roles/first-priority-coordinator

LIVE

Engage Week Leader Guide

Engage Week: A time for students to engage their school with the gospel.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Confirm your student or guest speaker and remind them to be prepared to share the gospel and an invitation to accept Christ. Gospel presentation options can be found at firstpriority.club
- Confirm that student follow up cards have been printed and will be ready to hand out to students as they enter your meeting space. Faculty sponsors can print for you if requested in advance.
- Confirm that arrangements for food for the club have been completed and that it is ready to serve just before club opening.

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

- Allow students to fellowship as student leaders prepare the group activity.

Welcome Students and Pray

- **Assigned Student Leader Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! Today we are going to start with a game to get to know one another. There is food for everyone here, so please feel free to grab a bite to eat while we get started."



GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

• Game: **Beach Ball Madness**

You will need 3 or 4, cheap 12" beach balls. Usually a local dollar store has these. Divide your attendees into 3 or 4 groups of 5, have each team circle up. Each group is given a beach ball and must find a way to keep the ball in the air without hitting it with their hands, their knees or their feet. When the game leader tells them to, one member of each team will throw the ball up in the middle of the circle and then the game is on. The last team to keep the ball in the air, Wins. If time allows, play multiple rounds allowing others to play as well.

GROUP TIME: GOSPEL (15 minutes)

Introduce Speaker Sharing the Gospel

- **Student Leader Host:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about something that is very important to them. Please listen respectfully, as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. You all were given a student response card that looks like this (hold up a sample card) when you came in. Just hold on to it and we will explain them to you shortly."

Gospel, Invitation, and Response Cards

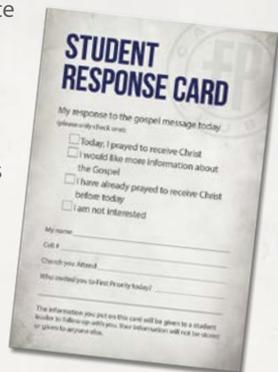
- **Gospel Presenter:** Share the gospel and give a personal invitation using "Appendix B Sample Gospel Presentation" or another gospel presentation at FirstPriority.club.



INVITATION & STUDENT RESPONSE CARDS: 5 minutes

Opportunity to connect to Jesus

- If everyone would just take a minute and think about what I shared today. If you would like to have a relationship with Jesus today, then simply take a minute where you are and let Him know that. Then, on your response card, simply let us know that you made that decision today so that we can connect with you and answer any questions you may have to celebrate your new life in Jesus.
- If you are not interested in having a relationship with Jesus at this time, it's ok to be honest and mark that on your student response card. The great thing about Jesus is that He died on the cross for us out of love knowing that some would not love Him back. That is not to make you feel bad, but to let you know that Jesus still loves you and died for you and cares for you no matter what you write on that card. No one here will judge you.
- If you have questions and don't know what you want or feel, mark that on your student card so we can connect with you and just listen to what you have to say. We would love to help you find answers to your questions.



Opportunity to connect to a local youth group

- We also want to make sure to give everyone an opportunity to connect with a local youth group if you are not involved in one right now. Could each of you please mark your level of interest in connecting with a local youth group? Also, if you are already connecting with a local youth group, we want to know so we can help you invite other students to join you.

WRAP UP & PRAYER: 2 minutes

- As we wrap up, I want to close in prayer, but first I wanted you to know that _____ is available to connect with you if you have questions today. Also, the response cards can be given to _____ and will only be used for follow up requests. Thank you for coming today and please join with me as I close us out in prayer thanking God for His love for all of us today.
- **Student Leader:** Thank you so much for coming today! Please turn in your card to _____ before you leave. We meet here every week at this time, so you are all invited to come back next week.

Appendix A

YOUR FAITH STORY

Your story is one of the most important tools you have been given by God to share the gospel with the world around you! Finding the power in your story will depend on how you learn to tell it. The first step to being able to tell a powerful story is to **WRITE IT DOWN**. This will give you the ability to edit the specifics and memorize. The second is to **PRACTICE OUT LOUD** with a close friend or parent so that they can give you useful feedback. The third is to **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER AND IN THE SCRIPTURE** to ask God to speak through you before you share your story publicly, because God can do more in others through you than you can do by yourself!

1. START WITH A KEYWORD

The first step in writing down your faith story is choosing what keywords describe your life before Christ. Below is a list of emotions. Circle two or three that adequately describe how you felt as a result of a problem you faced without Christ in your life. You are not limited to this list, so feel free to choose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

KEYWORDS

alienated	bitter	fearful	hurt	rejected
alone	confused	frustrated	insecure	uncertain
angry	depressed	guilty	lonely	unforgiving
apathetic	distrusting	heartbroken	lost	unloved
ashamed	doubtful	hopeless	prideful	worthless



2. SET UP THE BACKGROUND

Now describe the situation in which you came to face this problem and why your keyword describes the way you felt. It is more important to be honest than dramatic. This helps people to relate with your story personally and understand why we need God in our lives. If you need more space, continue on the back.

EXAMPLE: *"My parents divorced when I was younger... I blamed myself and began to feel unworthy of relationships... so I become isolated and alone because I was afraid of being rejected for being unworthy..."*

Appendix A YOUR FAITH STORY (continued)

3. SHARE HOW JESUS ENTERED YOUR STORY

Now describe how you came to know Jesus. Be sure to describe that moment (or that process) if you can with adjectives that show how meaningful and impactful it was for you. Try to describe how Jesus touched your heart, and how you responded (such as asking Him to be your Lord and Savior). This part challenges people's idea of what God is like.

EXAMPLE: *"One summer I attended church camp with my youth group and we talked about new identity in Christ and being loved as God's children. God began to speak to my heart and to my issues of unworthiness and fear of rejection. One evening I experienced the love of God and realized that Christ died for my sin, so that I could have a loving relationship with God. So I asked Him to save me and forgive me of my sin. The impact of that moment changed everything."*

4. STATE THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON YOUR LIFE



Now describe how Christ impacted your problem and your life. Use the emotion opposite of your keyword and share how Christ either reversed your problem or is continually giving you the power to overcome. This is the part that inspires your hearers to place their hope in Christ!

EXAMPLE: *"What changed after that was my view of myself. I began to trust that God really did love me and want me to be in relationship with Him. I had once been unworthy, but now I was given worth. I was once alone, but now I see myself as wanted, loved, and together with God and His family. I was once afraid of rejection, but now I know that I am fully accepted by Him, and He is giving me the faith and the strength to overcome the attitudes of the past."*

Appendix B

SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

(Begin the presentation by sharing a short version of your testimony.)

A BRAND-NEW LIFE

THE BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

God made all of creation. Everything out of nothing – that’s a miracle. Not only did God create plants, animals, and the solar system, He also created humans. From the dust of the Earth God made us. He breathed His life into us. We were given the ability to love, create, and make decisions. Most importantly, with the ability to communicate with Him.

The first people in God’s creation—Adam and Eve—had a perfect relationship with Him. This was a miracle.

However, they turned away from Him and creation fell into sin and brokenness. This resulted in separation from God and the free and full life we were intended to experience. From that moment on, humans needed a miracle. A miracle that God promised would come.

*“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” **Isaiah 7:14***

THE MIRACLE

God never intended to leave us without hope. He promised that He would rescue us from our sins and restore our broken relationship with Him. The good news that Jesus would arrive was announced throughout history by kings, priests, prophets, shepherds, farmers, and common people. Jesus did not come to us in any way, He came in a miraculous way, the virgin birth. Not only was His birth a miracle, it was also a mission. A mission to rescue people from their sins. Jesus loved every person unconditionally. Because of His love for us, He died for our sins on the cross, so that we could have the gift of eternal life now and forever.

*“And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **Matthew 1:21 NLT***

Appendix B SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Our relationship with God was broken, which caused every other aspect of our lives to be broken as well. This broken relationship brought guilt, shame, regret, and bad decisions which we call sin. Through faith in Jesus and His miraculous work for us on the cross, we are given new life. A new life that begins with a redeemed relationship with God through Jesus. We can now experience hope, forgiveness, peace, and righteousness. We can live the life that God intended full of meaning and purpose, with the hope and assurance of eternal life.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR

1. Confess your need (I am broken and in sin)
2. Change your direction in life, knowing that God's way of living is better than our way of living
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and was raised to life to save you and restore your relationship to God
4. Receive through prayer the free gift of salvation and begin your journey as part of the family of God.

WHAT TO PRAY

Father God,

I know that I am broken, and I need your forgiveness. Jesus, I believe you died and were raised so I could be saved. I want to turn away from my old life and toward a completely new life with You in Your family. Right now, I put my trust in You and invite You to come into my life and change it. In Jesus' name, Amen.



We believe in the impossible:
THE HOPE OF CHRIST
IN EVERY STUDENT
at your school.

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