

Study Skills

Study Skills Begin in the Classroom!

Be actively engaged in class:

- **Ask questions**
- Answer questions, take a risk.
- Take good notes
- Try to avoid distractions - select a different seat if necessary
- Write down homework assignments

Taking *GOOD* notes:

- Take clear & accurate notes.
- You don't have to write every word the teacher says, focus on key points:
 - *Dates, times, places, people, formulas, vocabulary words*
 - Notice what the teacher emphasizes:
 - Key phrases: "this is important" "you need to remember" "this will be on the test" are examples
- **For guided notes**- fill in blanks, underline, star, or highlight key points
- Write down questions in the left-hand margin to ask your teacher later.

Homework is a Form of Studying!

Do homework effectively and to the best of your ability!

- *Bring home the necessary tools* for each class to do homework and study. When packing your backpack ask yourself "what items do I need to correctly complete my homework and to study?"
 - planner, books, homework folder, notebooks/binder chromebooks, computer, flashcards, highlighters, etc.
- **Take your time!** Rushing and answering incorrectly does not help you.
- To find the correct answer:
 - Check your notes and textbooks
 - ask your teacher or a classmate to check for accuracy

Are you done with homework for the night?

- Spend some time:
 - Using various study skills (see below) to better understand what you are learning
 - Organizing binders/folders
 - Empty your backpack of unnecessary items

Study Outside of the Classroom – A KEY ingredient for success!

Build a toolbox of study skills. Some skills work better for specific classes and for certain people. PUT IN THE TIME & EFFORT

- Use teacher given study guides or create your own
 - Write down questions & answers
 - *Read questions and answers outloud*, don't just think of the answer in your head
- *Have someone quiz you*
 - Anyone- parent, friend, classmate, sibling
 - They can come up with questions out of your notebook, textbook, a study guide or flashcards
- Mnemonic devices for memorization
 - Examples:
 - Roy G. Biv (colors of the rainbow)
 - CUBES (CIRCLE the number and unit, UNDERLINE the question, BOX the word that tells the operation, ELIMINATE what you don't need, SOLVE the Math and answer the question.
- **Handwritten Flashcards**
 - Write questions (or vocabulary words) on one side and the answer on the other
 - Quiz yourself or have someone else quiz you
- Quizlet.com
 - Online resource l using flashcards, games, and other learning tools.
- Use Practice Questions to practice a concept and apply what you know in different ways
 - Math sample questions (review the first couple with the teacher to make sure you are practicing correctly).
 - Turn review notes or facts into questions
 - Practice questions from can come from textbooks, teachers, corrected homework assignments or quizzes
- Reread chapters from the book
 - Outline the chapter as you read, *identify main points and write in your own words (reword), key vocab, or draw a diagram*
- **Spaced studying**- it is better to study a little bit at a time over the course of a few days rather than cramming the night before
- **Create a study group or study buddy**
 - Get together with a group for classmates to study before a test.
- **Create a study schedule**
 - Crave out time at home that is dedicated to studying, early in the evening with freetime as a reward

- Find time in your day for **extra help** from teachers
 - 9th period, pre-homeroom study hall, After School Study Hall, ask them questions through email
- Bring study material to work on when you know there will be a wait
 - Like doctors appointments
- Spend time on your *harder subjects first* when you are most alert and focused

Ideas for Home (for Students & Parents):

- Have a place to study & do homework
 - use a table or another place so you have enough room to spread out
 - good lighting
 - sturdy chair
 - quiet space with minimal distraction
- Remove distractions like cell phones
- Parents can help to develop a system to keep track of important documents. - finding an method and sticking to it
 - Color coding
 - Use binders and dividers, etc.
- Check a students planner at home
 - Follow through at home helps to build a habit of writing down daily assignments and checking it off when it is completes
- Ask more than one questions rather than “Do you have homework?”, “did you do your homework?”, or “Do you have anything to study for?”
 - What information do you need to do this assignment?
 - Where are you going to look for it?
 - How did you make sure that your homework was done correctly?
 - Where do you think you should begin?
 - What do you need to do next?
 - Can you describe how you’re going to solve this problem?
 - How did you solve this problem?
 - What did you try that didn’t work?
 - Why does this answer seem right to you?
 - Tell me more about this part?
 - Which class are you having hardest time understanding?