

EDUCATION

Necessary tools

How to make sure students are prepared to learn

Every student living in our community is currently in possession of a clean academic slate. This means that they have the opportunity to make positive changes while getting rid of counter-productive habits. Students should take full advantage of the fact that the power to start fresh is now in their hands.

The academic destiny of all learners resides within their own control. They make the decisions to pay attention in class, be active participants and put forth a strong effort into assignments, projects and assessments.

Organization is a concept and tool that helps students be academically successful. It crosses over several arenas of academia: materials, space and mindset. The materials students use on a daily basis are necessary to accomplish the day's tasks and remain organized.

Writing utensils are materials used throughout the hours of the school day. Pencils of all shapes and sizes, ranging from wider rounder styles to sleek mechanical lead loaded models can be found in stylish pencil cases and backpacks alike. The trusty yellow No. 2 pencil, which is required for most scan-graded and stan-

dardized tests, traditional blue and black pens, and the newer admired colors of pink, purple and green are all popular writing tools. A sufficient supply of writing instruments should always be on hand to avoid being the token student who consistently arrives to class unprepared.

Then there's the notebook. Depending on a student's age, the number of binders he or she have may range from one to many. Having a notebook is one part of class requirements. Keeping it organized is the challenge. When a student makes a concerted effort to secure papers into their appropriate sections, which in turn organizes the notebook, they are making positive progress toward ultimate organization. Spiral notebooks increases this challenge.

Knowing where all necessary materials are, including the spot that contains written documentation of homework assignments, is imperative.

By Vicki Isacowitz

ON THE CHALKBOARD



The act of losing supplies on a regular basis increases the organization versus chaos factor.

Although it is not easy for everyone to be neat with

their belongings, it is possible.

Backpacks, desks and lockers are valuable spaces used by students to store their school supplies. These compartments also need constant care to maintain organization. It is common for students, especially when feeling rushed or hurried, to shove important papers into backpacks, desks or lockers instead of placing them into their proper sections within designated notebooks. When this happens, documents such as permission slips, letters to parents and guardians, or completed assessments get misplaced. This becomes an issue when a signature is mandatory or a lower grade is earned on a binder check.

Other places where supplies, papers, books and even backpacks are often lost is in a student's room. Messy floors

and overstuffed sub-spaces of beds are hindrances toward knowing the whereabouts of these necessary items. Maintaining order of all stated areas is crucial toward the achievement of organization.

Despite its placement in being stated last, the student's mindset is first and foremost in significance. A student needs to decide and take action to be organized. Maintaining neatness and order can occur within chaotic organization. This exists when students are messy and disorganized, but always have their needed materials and supplies. Previously described methods seem to work better for most students.

Organization of any kind is extremely helpful when striving for academic success. Start this year off strong. Be proactive and get organized.

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