

Successful Student

The difference between A/B students and C/D/F students is that the former have good habits & employ strategies CONSISTENTLY. The following is a list of many of these good habits and strategies. If you do one CONSISTENTLY, check it off. Whatever is left unchecked is something you can try. But you must be try it CONSISTENTLY for at least a month (maybe longer) before you give up on it.

SCHEDULING

- Schedule studying for a test ahead in a planner / Google Calendar / etc. (at LEAST 3 days ahead)
- Check your assignments on Progressbook; write them in your planner / Google Calendar / etc.
- Work with your personal and academic goals; schedule time to accomplish small steps in your planner.
- Plan for projects; schedule each part of the project in planner / Google Calendar to chip away at it (EX: find map online on Tuesday, find info about the country on Thursday, write a paragraph about the country on Sunday, create economic chart on Tuesday, etc.)
- Start a bigger project immediately. If you hit an obstacle, need teacher clarification, have a family emergency later, etc., you will still have enough time to complete it well.

STUDY / MEMORY STRATEGIES

- Review your homework and notes at home EVERY NIGHT; put a question mark by anything you didn't understand; ask questions in class at the next class meeting regarding what you didn't understand
- Create study guides for classes (2 columns—vocab & questions on left; info on right)
- Create notecards for vocabulary and put synonyms, antonyms, and other connections that help you on there, too
- Create notecards with questions that may appear on a test. Rewrite study guide questions onto notecards. The more of the 5 senses you use to study (touch: moving your hand to write), the more you will remember. **** **Best study method!!!**
- Use Quizlet.com or some other study tool/website to make your own notecards then use **all** the components of that website you can (print out the cards, create a test, etc.) **** **Best study method!!!**
- Color code notes AND notecards by categories (people = purple, events = green, etc.) to commit info to memory.
- Post-it note practice problems. Use those problems you have the COMPLETE solution to, not just the answer. Looking at a problem, rewrite only the problem on another sheet of paper while you cover the original problem's step by step solution with post-it notes. Work the problem on the sheet of paper, then remove the post-its and see if your solution looks exactly like the problem you covered. This allows you to see WHERE in the process you messed up (IF you did!).
- Chunk information from notes in a way that makes sense (by different categories, etc.)
- Draw pictures in your notes or on notecards (vocab, info, etc.) that will help you remember the information
- Create your own mnemonics to remember info from notes (EX: "King Hector Died Monday Drinking Chocolate Milk" to remember the order of metric units). The funnier or more personal to you, the better.
- Do not study for more than 10 minutes at a time. Your attention will wane. Study 10, take a short break, repeat.
- If you prefer to be moving than sitting still, walk around while you study your notecards. Or toss a ball in one hand while you study.
- Study in a place that is NOT comfortable. Sit at the kitchen table (not in your bed) or some other place that is low on distractions: no tv, music, cell phone.
- Feeling sleepy? Pop some peppermints or peppermint gum. (Keep this in the car as well so that you are never driving around sleepy.)