**Top Ten Study Tips for Middle School Students**

Adapted from an article by Kellie Hayden @ http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/3521.aspx

The lessons taught in middle school are building blocks for high school and college. Starting good study habits now will help you later in life. It does take much effort to study and to become organized. Academic success, however, will make you feel good about yourself and make your parents smile. This list of the top ten study tips for middle school students can help you improve your study habits and become a better student.

**10 – Select a consistent place to study.** Find a comfortable place that is free of distractions and study there regularly.

**9 – Don’t wait until the last minute.** Study a little every night instead of trying to cram material the night before the test. A good night’s sleep helps. Bleary eyes and a tired body do not.

**8 – Use your school planner.** Write down your assignments in each class every day. Then bring your planner home and look at it, marking off each assignment after you complete it and place it in your backpack.

**7 – Dedicate a binder for each class.** There should be a place for class notes, handouts and homework assignments. Some of the larger binders can accommodate multiple classes, but it is crucial to keep papers separated by class.

**6 – Stay organized throughout the year.** Most students have many binders and folders, but they do not use them. Many stuff every single paper from school into one binder. Half of their papers become misplaced or lost. Do not use the “shove” method when papers are returned, i.e. shoving everything in one binder. Place them in the correct folder. If you are using a three-ring binder to keep papers organized, take the time to open the metal prongs and place them securely in it. If someone helps you organize your papers, take the time to continue putting everything in its place.

**5 – Make study cards.** On the front of a note card write the word or idea. On the back, write the definition or important information. Have a friend, sibling, or parent quiz you, first using the front sides of the cards and then using the back sides.

**4 – Make your own study guide.** One great way to study is to make a list of the important information from a chapter and write it in your own words. Copy down any words that are written in bold or in italics. Look at chapter headings, section headings and review sections at the end of a chapter for other important information to add to your study guide. Merge this information with class notes. You can even make drawings to go along with your notes.

**3 – Talk about assignments with friends.** Discussing assignments with friends can help you better understand both the class content and the guidelines for the assignment. Talking about school work with a classmate does not mean that you can copy homework or let a friend do an assignment for you.

**2 – If you are struggling in a class, ask for help.** Talk to the teacher for that class, your MAP teacher, or your guidance counselor. You can also attend extra help or study sessions even if they are not required.

**1 – Make academics a priority in your life.** School is your job and you should always strive to do your best work.