

## Study Skills

1. Explain to the students that we are going to begin a Study Skills unit. This unit should help you to become a better student.
2. Tell the class that we are going to learn about two different styles of learners. One type of learner is a reader/writer. They enjoy written tests but don't like classroom discussions as much. The other type of learner is a listener/talker. They like classroom discussions but don't enjoy writing as much. Both types of learning are important and one isn't better than the other kind. It is best to become someone who enjoys reading, writing, listening and talking.
3. Having a positive attitude is the most important factor in learning. If you don't have a positive attitude about learning, there are things you can do to change that.
6. Ask the class: What are two types of styles you know. Is one better than the other? What type of attitude changes the study habit? How does it change?
7. Pass out the 'Agree/Disagree' sheet. Ask the students to put an A to the statements that they agree with and a D on the statements they disagree with. Tell the students they will share their answer with some classmates.
8. Ask the students to split in groups of two. Share their answers with their partner and decide which answers the two of you think is best.
9. Have the groups share their answers with the class.
10. Review learning styles and positive attitude

Put an A if you agree and a D if you disagree

- \_\_\_ 1. Students who get better grades are always smarter.
- \_\_\_ 2. Girls are naturally better at some subjects.
- \_\_\_ 3. Students who are disorganized can't help it. That's the way they are.
- \_\_\_ 4. Reader/writers are better students than listener/talkers.
- \_\_\_ 5. If a teacher doesn't like you, he/she won't give you a good grade.
- \_\_\_ 6. If someone gets a better grade than I do that means the work is easier for them
- \_\_\_ 7. I'm tired of hearing adults talk about 'attitude'. Attitude has nothing to do with how I do in school.
- \_\_\_ 8. I've always gotten average grades. I can't change that.
- \_\_\_ 9. The work is harder in school than it was a few years ago. You can't expect me to do as well as I did back then.
- \_\_\_ 10. I believe I can't do any better in school, no matter what.

## Study Skills

1. Review different learning styles and having a positive attitude.

2. Explain that we are going to discuss what some of the keys to getting good grades are. We will talk about listening, taking notes, being on time, being organized, having friends who are good influences, how to study for tests, how to take tests and how to write reports.

3. Tell the class you are going to watch the second part of 'Study Skills Plus Attitude' video. Many of the skills are aimed at junior high students but you can use these skills to help you in fifth/sixth grade. This will help prepare for junior high.

4. Show the second section of the 'Study Skills Plus Attitude' video called 'Getting Good Grades'.

5. Explain to the class that we are going to discuss many of the topics covered in the video. If you learn and use these techniques, it will help you to become a better student.

6. Pass out the 'Study Skills' sheet. Ask the students to put an X to the statements that is most correct for them. Tell the students they will share their answer with some classmates.

7. Ask the students to split in groups of four. Ask each group member to guess what one of the member's answers are on the "Study Skills' sheet. Ask the students to keep track of how many answers they got correct. Repeat this for the other three group members.

8. Tell the class that we will talk more about how to have good study skills next week.

I take notes in class:

\_\_\_\_\_ most of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the time

I listen in class:

\_\_\_\_\_ most of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the time

I'm on time for school and class:

\_\_\_\_\_ most of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the time

I have the supplies I need:

\_\_\_\_\_ most of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the time

I have a comfortable place to study:

\_\_\_\_\_ yes

\_\_\_\_\_ no

I write my assignments in a notebook:

\_\_\_\_\_ most of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the time

I can find the things I need (without hunting forever):

\_\_\_\_\_ most of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ part of the time

\_\_\_\_\_ none of the time

### **Study Skills**

1. Review having a positive attitude. Emphasize that this is the most important factor in learning.

2. Pass out the ‘ Study Skills II’ sheet. Ask students answer the questions true or false on the ‘Preparing For and Taking a Test’ section. Explain each answer after the students complete the questions: 1) False 2) True 3) False 4) True 5) False 6) True 7) False

3. Ask students to number in order the list on the ‘Reading a Textbook Chapter’ section. The order is 4), 3), 1), 2) and 5). Explain each answer.

4. Ask students to number in order the list on the ‘Steps in Preparing a Report’ section. The order is 2), 4), 1), 5), 3) and 6). Explain each answer.

5. Ask students answer the questions true or false on the ‘Self Assessment’ section.

6. Explain that it is good to have as many true answers as possible. Look at the questions that you answered false and see what you can do to make it true. Go through each answer and explain why it is important for that to be true.

Emphasize that attitude is the most important factor in learning.

Preparing For and Taking a Test (True or False)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) Do most of your studying the night before a test so the material will be fresh in your mind the next day?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) Make sure you know what will be covered on the test.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) There's no way of knowing what kind of questions will be asked on the test

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) Don't try to memorize until two nights before the test.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5) Answer all the questions in the order they appear on the test.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6) Key words give you clues to the answer

\_\_\_\_\_ 7) If your mind goes blank, you haven't studied enough

Reading a Textbook Chapter (number in order)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) Look at the pictures, graphs and charts.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) Read through the chapter and take notes

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) Read the summary if there is one

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) Read the review questions

\_\_\_\_\_ 5) Try to answer the review questions

Steps in Preparing a Report (number in order)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) Making an outline

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) Choosing a topic

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) Revising and editing

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) Getting information (research)

\_\_\_\_\_ 5) Writing a first draft

\_\_\_\_\_ 6) Writing a final draft

Self Assessment (True or False)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) I usually have a good attitude about school

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) My school work is challenging

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) I can do as well in school as I did when I was younger

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) I don't have trouble being on time for school or class

\_\_\_\_\_ 5) I have enough time to do my work.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6) I don't put off doing my homework

\_\_\_\_\_ 7) I enjoy my classes

\_\_\_\_\_ 8) I don't forget my books, notebooks, pens, etc.

## **Study Skills**

1. Explain to the students that this is the last Study Skills unit lesson. Handout the 'Study Skills Review Sheet' and go through it with the students. Pick up the papers when finished.

2. Split the class up into two groups.

3. Play Jeopardy. Write the following on the board with the answer squares

empty. (The questions you ask are on the 'Study Skills Review Sheet'.)  
4. Play Final Jeopardy. The teams can bet none, some or all their points|

## **Study Skills Review Sheet**

### Taking Tests

- 1) Do most of your studying the night before a test so the material will be fresh in your mind the next day? No. It helps to spread out your studying.
- 2) What are some ways to know what questions will be on the test? Ask the teacher to give you some clues or ask an older student.
- 3) Should you answer all the questions in the order they appear on the test? No. Answer the easier questions first and go back on the ones you are not sure of.
- 4) What is very important to do the night before the test? Get a good night's sleep.

### Reading a Textbook Chapter

- 1) What is the first thing you should do when reading a chapter? Read the review questions.
- 2) Why should you read the review questions first when reading a chapter? The review questions will let you know the important point to look for.
- 3) Why should you take notes when reading a chapter? It helps you remember.
- 4) Why should you look at the pictures and graphs before you read the chapter? It creates pictures and key point in your mind before you read.

### Preparing a Report

1. What is the first thing you should do when preparing a report? Choose a topic
2. What is the second thing you should do when preparing a report? Gather information (research)
3. Why should you make an outline before you write the report? It makes your paper more organized.
4. What should you do after you have written the rough draft? Revise and edit the paper

### Miscellaneous

1. Are the students who get better grades always the smartest kids? No. They could try harder and have better study skills.
2. Are Reader/Writer students always do better than Listener/Talker students? No.
3. Are boys naturally better than girls at any subjects? No
4. What is the most important factor in learning? A good attitude

# School Based Mentors

School-based mentors make a difference in a young person's life by helping them succeed at school. Caring adult attention will help improve a child's attitude and ultimately his/her academic performance

Most school-based mentors visit the student at school once a week for an hour or so each visit. Businesses are often open to let their employees help at school during work time. They are aware that studies show school-based mentors make a measurable difference in a life of a child or adolescent. According to a study published by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, teachers involved nationwide with this program report:

- \* 64% of students report a more positive attitude toward school
- \* 58% achieved higher grades in social studies, languages and math
- \* 60% improved relationships with adults
- \* 63% improves relationships with peers
- \* 55% were better able to express their feelings
- \* 64% developed higher levels of confidence
- \* 62% were more likely to trust teachers

Saint Paul Public Schools are committed to provide school-based mentors to as many students as possible. We believe that a caring adult in a student's life significantly increases their resiliency to overcome the challenges they face. The students need support, patience, acceptance, positive relationships, role models and just someone to listen to them.

School-based mentors help improve school climate and enhance academic achievement. To continue this improvement, we need more adult mentors. If you or someone you know may be interested in school-based mentoring, please call Jim Bierma at 651-312-9055.