

8th Grade Homeroom Lesson: April 6th

- **Essential Question:** How can I continue to be successful as a student in a virtual learning setting?

Let's Get Started:



You will need a piece of paper and a writing utensil for this activity.

Divide your paper into 8 equal sections. Write the name of each success tip in a square. The first one is shown. You will add a response after reading each section of the article. The following slides have the tips listed individually.

Be Positive	

1. Be positive.

A **positive attitude** about learning is the best gift you can give yourself. Everything you learn, whether it's your most favorite or least favorite subject, will help you grow as a person.

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO STAY
POSITIVE WHILE LEARNING AT HOME?**

2. Get organized—and stay organized.

Creating an orderly **learning space** to do schoolwork will put you ahead of the game. Be sure you have room for your books, computer, pens, paper, and other supplies. Label folders to hold papers and notes for each subject. Go ahead and create electronic folders for each class on your computer and in your email program. If your virtual school provides an online planner, use it to schedule your personal appointments and create your “to do” list, with items ranked in order of urgency.

WHAT WOULD YOUR LEARNING SPACE LOOK LIKE?

3. Establish a routine.

While online school and blended learning school do give you a more **flexible schedule**, having a routine will help keep you on track with your schoolwork. It's a good idea to find out when your teachers have their office hours, so you can arrange your **schedule** to overlap with when they are available. Naturally, you can vary your schedule when needed.

**WHAT ARE IMPORTANT THINGS TO INCLUDE IN
A DAILY ROUTINE?**

4. Set personal goals.

To make great things happen in your life, it helps to set **goals** for yourself. Think about what you'd like to accomplish, both short-term and long-term. Is there a class you want to ace this semester? Maybe you want to get a certain grade point average or achieve a certain score on the SAT exams. Admission to a specific **college** might also be on your list. Be sure to put your goals in writing and post the list where you'll see it often.

HOW CAN SETTING A GOAL HELP YOU BE MORE SUCCESSFUL?

5. Make the most of your resources.

As an online student or blended learning student, you have many helpful resources available. Naturally, your texts, the library, online **instructional tools**, and trusted websites come to mind. But don't forget the many *human* resources you can use: parents, **teachers**, school counselors, and principals are great sources of information. A good rule of thumb is if you've been looking for an answer for more than five minutes, reach out for help!

**MAKE A LIST OF SPECIFIC RESOURCES YOU CAN
USE WHILE LEARNING AT HOME?**

6. Start on track and stay on track.

It's always better to be ahead than to be struggling at the last minute! Break down big projects into small, manageable parts—and give each one a deadline. Don't drag your feet—make yourself do things on time, and you'll be better off in the long run.

HOW DO YOU START AND STAY ON TRACK?

7. Limit your time online.

That sounds funny coming from someone who works at an online school, doesn't it? But we all get sucked into the trap of taking a “short break” from our important task to go see what's happening on Facebook or Twitter. The next thing you know, that five-minute break has turned into an hour! Breaks are a good thing, but it's important to limit your “digital distractions” and keep yourself on task by setting a time limit and sticking to it. Set a timer to keep yourself honest!

**WHAT ARE SOME GOOD SHORT BRAIN BREAKS
YOU CAN DO WHILE LEARNING AT HOME?**

8. Learn to deal with setbacks.

Everyone has them! Every person who succeeds has had to struggle to get there. When you get a bad grade, have an argument with a friend, or experience other **frustrations**, realize that this is a learning experience. Talk to someone to get another point of view—you could be worried about something that's pretty small in the long run. To move forward, you must take responsibility for what you've done (or not done) and decide to change your behavior in the future. Making a plan for achieving greater success in the future will help you build confidence, too!

WHAT FRUSTRATIONS OR SETBACKS HAVE YOU HAD WITH LEARNING AT HOME?

**WHAT HELPFUL HINTS CAN YOU SUGGEST
FOR NEW OR RETURNING ONLINE
STUDENTS? SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR
SUCCESS ON THE BACK OF YOUR PAPER.**

Throughout this week we will try some of these successful tips and make a plan for continuing to be a successful student while learning at home.