Virtual Learning Success at SJCP

If this is your first experience with distance learning and you're unsure of how to structure your days for success, you'll want to be active early on to make sure you adopt good habits to succeed in online learning. Then, with the right routines established, you'll know it's working when you are working more and more independently.

Here are some tips to help ensure your success:

1. Be Positive.

Thriving through a change is tough but doable with a positive attitude. A positive attitude about online 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.

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.

3. Establish a flexible 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/tutoring hours, so you can arrange your schedule to overlap with when they are available. Naturally, you can vary your schedule when needed.

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 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. Preparing for college and getting admission into 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.

5. Make the most of your resources.

As an online or blended learning student, you have many helpful resources available. Naturally, your texts, 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 resource teachers 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!

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. Write things down so you can refer to the often. Don't drag your feet—make yourself do things on time and you'll be better off in the long run.

7. Exercise and move your body.

High school students will spend a lot of time online—completing lessons, chatting with peers, and touching base with their online teachers, so scheduling physical fitness into the day is also important. Physical exercise can boost mood, energy, and brainpower. You won't even have to leave your room with the many online exercise videos available on social channels like Instagram and YouTube. If the weather permits, take breaks during your online school day to walk outside and move!

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!

Following these tips will help you get the most out of their education. With these suggestions, virtual school or blended learning school students can become independent learners and gain valuable time-management skills that will serve you well—in high school, in college, and in the workforce!

Don't forget – if you are still struggling after trying things on your own, contact one of SJCP's guidance counselors or resource teacher for more tips and ideas.

Works Consulted:

https://www.connectionsacademy.com/support/resources/article/8-top-tips-for-student-success-in-online-school