

2.01 Successful School Space at Home

Spanish Translation Available, [click here.](#)

Creating a space for your child is the foundation for a successful day and school year. Optima Classical Academy is here to support you and your child with great ideas and templates. Below you will find helpful information. The key is to have your child excited about this space. A great way to get them excited is to ask them for input and let them help you set up their space!

Many families have different lifestyles. Depending on what your child is working on, you may use a designated area in your home, a common family area, or both.

Here are some examples of a designated workspace or a common family area.





It is beautiful to see a child with a book in their hands! A great way to design an inspiring workspace in the home is to create a library of the Great Books for treasures to keep for years! If you do not have room to have a bookshelf, simply having books on their desk or the common area table can be very motivating.

Here are some helpful ideas you may already have in your home!

- Discussion about **planning and designing** the workspace. Here is a [template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XUKUR8bjb7XyrhHXpL7xDgRyWZvTC7OLiPhtgjf_qwo/edit) (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XUKUR8bjb7XyrhHXpL7xDgRyWZvTC7OLiPhtgjf_qwo/edit) to get you started!
- **Create** a contract with your child: rules, boundaries, and consequences. Here is a template to get you started.
- Set **learning goals** together. Here is a template to get you started.
- A desk/wall **calendar** or planner:
 - this will help the scholar organize themselves for asynchronous work.
 - Keeping track of daily assignments is very important to learning success.
 - Learning how to "time-block" for time management.
 - There are so many free templates available online to download and print; ask your child which one they like best!
- **Comfortable chair**:
 - We want to ensure that your child is comfortable and safe while engaging in our virtual reality lessons. In addition, there will be an independent study. The chair should be adjustable to the right level based on the child's height in their workspace.

- If they are working in the common family area, have them move around to ensure they are maintaining the appropriate posture while working.
- **Workspace:**
 - Don't worry; your 3rd graders, for example, don't need their own office space! Simply a place where they are free from distractions. This can be a desk with room for school supplies and writing. This can also be a space in the family's common area of the home. At first, you may want to keep your child closer to you to coach them. However, there should be less learning mentor involvement as the school year moves on.
 - We want to create independent study skills and good habits. Our recommendation is not to allow scholars to work while sitting on a sofa or in bed.
- **Organization:**
 - Remember, everyone learns differently. What may be organized for your child may not look organized for you! Before moving things around, ask your child questions about their workspace. If they are comfortable and able to share their space with you, don't stress.
- **Lighting:**
 - Ensure that the workspace has good lighting (natural light or table/floor lamp). A work area with a 40-60 watt bulb provides enough illumination without causing unnecessary glare.
- **Software:**
 - Ensure you have all necessary software and applications downloaded on your scholar's computer.
 - Create a "cheat sheet" for your child to have nearby with user names and passwords.
 - For good digital organization, pin the applications to the bottom toolbar.
 - Parent/Guardians/Learning Mentor, you should also ensure you have the applications downloaded on your devices.
- **Time Management Skills:**
 - This can help encourage your child to stay focused on assignments/tasks. Your scholar can log how long they work on their assignments (start and end time). Are they taking too long, being distracted, or not working efficiently?
- **Follow a Daily Schedule:**
 - We all thrive when we have some basic structure and routine in our day. Knowing what comes next always makes scholars feel at ease and ready to focus on tasks to be completed.
- **Taking Learning Beyond the Headset:**
 - Board games, baking/cooking, shopping, household skills like laundry, writing a handwritten note to a family member, going to the library, the options are endless with your flexible school schedule.
- **Make Learning a Family Activity:**
 - Read the Great Books together, make crafts, let your scholar teach you how to use the headset, take a family walk/hike, and visit a museum. Take advantage of the benefits of your flexible school schedule.
- **Ask Your Child About Their Day:**

- Here is a [template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fqrg2xHRhqpjAdYUtZfyD2Lb_d90c_u28e_al9SSRYA/edit) (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fqrg2xHRhqpjAdYUtZfyD2Lb_d90c_u28e_al9SSRYA/edit) of some questions to get you started!