



Seven Habits of Effective Grade 8 Students

Introduction: Each year teachers observe a number of universal strengths of highly effective students in their classrooms. These students are the ones who often achieve top grades and learn the most in a semester. Of course, teachers also observe weaknesses in students that prevent or disrupt learning. Here are 7 Habits of highly effective students.

The Highly Effective Habits

1. Highly effective students are prepared students. They come to class with a binder full of paper, a pencil case with pens, pencils, rulers and erasers. Effective students have all of the supplies they need to do their work without making locker trips during class time. Typically, written work is done in ink or pencil. Sometimes word-processed work is necessary. Effective students also have their textbooks with them every period.
 2. Highly effective students follow instructions carefully. Before beginning their work, effective students read and understand assignments and the specific assignment criteria. If there are any misunderstandings, students ask their teachers directly for clarification. Students who rush into their work often do it incorrectly or inconsistently. The idea is to work smarter, not harder.
 3. Highly effective students know the difference between homework and home study. Homework is unfinished work from class that must be completed. Home study is review or recap work students do on their own in a quiet setting. It is recommended that students review their daily lessons for academic courses **a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes each**.
 4. Highly effective students hand in assignments and hand assignments in on time for teachers to evaluate. Work that is handed in on time **demonstrates that** students respect and care about deadlines. Work that gets handed in on time gets returned in a timely fashion with effective and meaningful feedback. Students that do not hand in work often do not meet course requirements.
 5. Highly effective students are active learners. Active learners participate in class activities by contributing and volunteering answers. Active learners take risks when answering questions and do more than simply 'sponge up' information from the teacher. Active learners take responsibility for their own learning and 'own their learning'.
 6. Highly effective students seek out assistance and support when they are struggling with their learning. Effective students recognize their own individual strengths and weaknesses. Effective students help and coach others that are having difficulty and **actively seek out help from teachers or support staff if they are struggling**.
 7. Highly effective students are organized students. Organized students keep a current and up to date agenda and a clean binder. Often, highly effective students have their binders divided into **sections**: notes, handouts and test / quiz section, complete with tables of contents. Jamming loose papers into textbooks and backpacks or lockers is one sure way of losing valuable information. Students need to be champions of the paper chase.
- Bonus:** 8. Highly effective students are not distracted by electronic gizmos like cell phones or iPods.