



Northland Preparatory Academy

Transitional Study Skills
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Transitional Study Skills is a class that allows you to have the quiet time you need to complete work for all of your other classes. The focus of this study skills period is to keep you current in your work load while assisting you in developing the organizational and academic skills that will allow you to be (and feel like) a successful and self-determined student here at NPA. What we will be working on will be determined largely by the curriculum you are covering in your core classes. Most of what you see here you will have seen before; what we do in my classroom will continue to reinforce skills and concepts you have previously studied and explored.

Materials:

You will need to bring your work from other classes so that you can use this time wisely in order to finish your work. You will also need many pencils. Calculator use is accepted and encouraged, so owning a good calculator is a good idea. While I might lend calculators, pencils, or paper to use in my classroom, **it is your responsibility to be prepared.**

Teacher Availability:

I am usually available at lunch and after school, but it is a good idea to check with me in advance if you need to speak with me. Please feel free to ask for extra help. **Students should also take advantage of any available tutoring services.**

Student Responsibilities:

We are here, first and foremost, for student learning. This is the most important classroom policy, from which all other rules are derived. Any habit or behavior that disrupts this process is unacceptable. Your time in my classroom is extremely valuable; so is the time of your classmates. We will always treat it as such.

Any of you who have worked with me before know that I enjoy a friendly, silly, FUN atmosphere in my classroom, and will maintain and encourage this. This will be possible so long as this most important classroom policy is observed and respected.

Students are expected to be in class properly prepared (book, assignment/test, notes, agenda, pencil, and calculator) and on time, do their daily assignments, and ask questions when they don't understand something. **If you don't ask questions, you will not learn anything new.**

Be in your seat and ready to go when the class begins. If you are tardy, quietly take your seat and get ready for class. **Do not pack up or leave your seat at the end of class until I tell you to do so.**

Compliance with all NPA student behavior policies will be expected. Pay particular attention to attendance and tardy policies; they will be enforced.

Try to use the bathroom during passing times. Use of the bathroom during class time is to be avoided.

In an effort to listen to student wishes and to incorporate modern technology into the learning environment of the classroom, we will, as an experiment, try the following policies regarding electronic devices:

Absolutely no use of electronic devices such as digital music players will be allowed during time the teacher is actively working with the class as a whole. Cell phones ringers will never be heard in the classroom, and you will ignore your phone going off in your pocket during the above times. If I see or hear your cell phone, I will confiscate it.

After am I done teaching and answering questions for the group, students may listen to digital music players, provided they are actively working on their assignments and the person sitting next to them cannot hear any sound coming from their headphones. You may utilize these devices to listen to music or audiobooks.

Use of technology: Your web-accessing device can be a very valuable asset in your studies when used effectively. You must ask for permission to use your device, and state what you will be using it for. Students in good academic standing who have proven to use their time effectively in study hall will be able to use their device for independently listening to music. **IF YOU ARE CAUGHT EVEN ONCE USING YOUR DEVICE FOR ANYTHING NONACADEMIC YOU WILL LOSE YOUR ABILITY TO USE THE DEVICE FOR THE REST OF THE SEMESTER.**

Failure to observe these policies will result initially in confiscation of the digital music player until the end of the class period. Repeated failure to do so will result in the item in question—digital music player—being turned in to the Dean of Students, in accordance with school policy.

These policies are not negotiable. Attempts to take up class time to debate them will result in being sent to the Dean of Students.

Please sign below to state that you have read over this syllabus and understand what is expected.

Student's Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

