

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

What are the qualities of a successful student? Look around; are the successful students at Timberlake the “smartest” kids in the class? Maybe successful students are just born with a higher level of intelligence or maybe school just comes natural to them. Do you think this is true? If so, you wouldn’t be the first to hold this misconception.

The truth is, successful students are not born that way, they are created. A successful student doesn’t always hold the highest level of intelligence. Intelligence is but one element to being a successful student, and it is certainly not the most important. Intelligence is but one small tool in the toolbox of education and learning.

So, how do you become a successful student? We already know that you don’t have to be the “smartest” kid in class. What’s the secret? The truth is, there are many things that go into being a successful student but **deciding** to use these tools is entirely up to the individual. The following ideas are some of the ways that a student can ensure success in high school. You don’t have to be a genius but you do need make a choice to learn and then have the determination to see it through. Follow these tips for being a successful student and you will be well on your way to success.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS:

- **Are responsible and active.** Successful students get involved in their studies, accept responsibility for their own education, and are active participants in it!!!
- **Have educational goals.** Successful students have legitimate (achievable) goals and are motivated by what they represent in terms of career aspirations and life's desires.
- **Ask questions.** Successful students ask questions to provide the quickest route between ignorance and knowledge. Go to your teachers. They will give you their time and are always excited to see a student who is interested and willing to learn.
- **Learn that a student and a professor make a team.** Most instructors want exactly what you want: they would like for you to learn the material in their respective classes and earn a good grade.
- **Don’t sit in the back of the classroom.** Successful students minimize classroom distractions that interfere with learning. Being funny may be fine in the hallway, but in the classroom you may miss something or worse yet, distract other students. Be attentive in the classroom, not a distraction.
- **Take good notes.** Successful students take notes that are understandable and organized, and review them often.
- **Understand that actions affect learning.** Successful students know their personal behavior affects their feelings and emotions, which in turn can affect learning. Act like you're disinterested and you'll become disinterested. Act interested (even when you may not be) and watch how it changes your attitude and toward learning.

- **Talk about what they're learning.** Successful students get to know something well enough that they can put it into words. Discuss your homework with other students or better yet, teach the subject to someone who doesn't understand. When a student is able to teach another, they begin to truly understand the concept.
- **Don't cram for exams.** Successful students know that divided periods of study are more effective than cram sessions, and they practice it.
- **Are good time managers.** Successful students do not procrastinate. They have learned that time control is life control and have consciously chosen to be in control of their life.