

Identifying School Success Skills

Activity

Teacher will lead in to the lesson by asking students introduction/lead questions:

- *How many of you want to be successful students? (record on board)*
- *How many of you ARE successful students? (record on board)*
- *What is a successful student? (record attributes named on board)*

Teacher will then ask students:

- ✓ *Name 2-3 skills that you think are important to do well in school. (record on board)*
- ✓ *What would teachers say are important skills for doing well in school? (record on board)*
- ✓ *What about your parents? What would your parents want you to do (skill-wise) to be successful in school? (record on board)*

Survey questions:

1. Are there any skills on the list that you feel are not important?
2. Which skills do you feel are the most important for all students to do well at?
3. Which skills would be most important to your parents?
4. Which skills would be most important to your teachers?
5. Do you think your teachers have different ideas or expectations of what is important in their class to do well? Give some examples.
6. Which skills would be your biggest challenge to you personally?

Objectives

- Identify a variety of skills that are important for success as a student.
- Articulate personal strong skills and challenging skills.
- Devise a plan of how to improve in challenging skills of school success.

Materials

Board or chart for students to focus on skill identification. Multiple colors of pens for recording/coding. Choose any of the SW:

SW C- Student Self-Monitoring
SW C- Netiquette (Using the Internet)
SW C- Mnemonics
SW C- Top 10 Study Tips for Students
TI C- Self-Monitoring
Intervention Directions for Teachers
TI C- Importance of Good Study Skills

Vocabulary

- Memorizing
- Reviewing
- Mnemonics
- Note-taking
- Time and place of homework completion
- Organizing notes and assignments

Summary

Teacher can survey question #6 responses and list on the board the skills identified by students as the greatest challenge. Follow with all responses listed by students as the most important to them, question #2.

Teacher then asks: *Are there different sets of skills required for different classes? List some examples under class name.*

Option for student activity/project:

- Students design and write a flyer or folder for younger students identifying the skills that are important at this grade level _____, and how they could work on developing those skills.
- Cartoon drawings or magazine clips can be added where appropriate to make it even more interesting.
- Plan a visit to a middle or elementary class to share projects, and leave the completed book projects with students.

Notes for Teachers

The activity can be done as a brief written survey by recording the questions in a worksheet style for students, or the teacher can continue to engage students in discussion and input to be recorded on the board. This decision depends on the nature/dynamics of the class, and your interaction with them.

Reflection

Assign students a writing exercise where they explain what skill(s) is most important for them to work on to improve, and how they will improve that skill in school this year.

Home Connection

Students can ask a parent what they identify as the most important skill to have as a HS student. They can also ask the parent if they had any challenges with skills in HS, what they were, and how they dealt with improving in that area, if they did improve. Share the following day in the classroom.