

Unit # 1 Title: The Successful Student

Grade Level: 6-8

Number of Lessons in Unit: 4

Time Required for each lesson: 45 minutes

Lesson Titles:

Grade 6:

Lesson 1 Picturing the Successful Student

Materials and special preparation:

Markers and tape

Handout “*Characteristics/Qualities of a Successful Student*” (1 for each student group)

Lesson 2 What’s Your Style?

Materials and special preparation:

Learning style inventory or other tool to help students find their best method of learning.

<http://www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/lsi/lisiframe.html> is one free resource on the website of Abiators Online Learning Style. This web site includes assessments that may be completed and scored on line. Assessments include learning style, multiple intelligences and critical thinking style. In addition to assessments, the site includes strategies appropriate for each learning style. The vocabulary of the assessments is appropriate for a wide range of reading levels – for readers who are not yet fluent, the assessments may be read to the learner.

Grade 7:

Lesson 3 Let’s Review for Better Achievement

Materials and special preparation:

Sam the Slacker Story

Sample page from a personal planner (or use an assignment book, calendar, or a handheld device)

Study Skills Tips Handout

Test-Taking Tips Handout

Skill Cards Worksheets (you will need copies of all three worksheets for each group you plan on having: then cut and bundle the skill cards for distribution to each group)

Blank Time Management Skills, Study Skills and Test-Taking Skills Worksheets (you will need copies of all three blank worksheets for distribution to each group.)

Counselor Resource for Categorizing Skills

Grade 8:

Lesson 4 Just Checking

Materials and special preparation:

Introduction

Just Checking Checklist-Goal-Setting Sheet for backside
Tips for Setting Goals Information Sheet
 Effective Management System Tips Information Sheet
 Counselor may wish to provide sample assignment book page, calendar page, or palm pilot screen from school’s adopted management system

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Big Idea:

AD.4 Applying Skills Needed for Educational Achievement

Grade Level Expectations (GLEs):

- AD.4.A.06: Develop and practice study skills and test-taking strategies specific to each academic area and identify available resources. (DOK - 3)
- AD.4.B.06: Develop and practice a self-management system to promote academic success. (DOK - 4)
- AD.4.A.07: Demonstrate and refine study skills and test-taking strategies utilizing available academic resources. (DOK - 3)
- AD.4.B.07: Demonstrate and refine a self –management system to promote academic success. (DOK - 3)
- AD.4.A.08: Consistently apply a system of study skills and test-taking strategies to promote academic success. (DOK - 4)
- AD.4.B.08: Consistently apply a self-management system to promote academic success. (DOK - 4)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standard:

Academic Development

- A: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills contributing to effective learning in school and across the lifespan.

Show Me Standards: Performance Goals (check one or more that apply and identify relevant process standards)

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| X | Goal 1: Gather, analyze and apply information and ideas 1. Develop questions and ideas to initiate and refine research 4. Use technological tools and other resources to locate, select and organize information 6. Discover and evaluate patterns and relationships in information, ideas, and structures. 8. Organize data, information and ideas into useful forms (including charts, graphs, outlines) for analysis or presentation 10. Apply acquired information, ideas and skills to different contexts as students, workers, citizens and consumers |
| X | Goal 2: communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom 1. Plan and make written, oral and visual presentations for a variety of purposes and audiences 2. Review and revise communications to improve accuracy and clarity 3. Exchange information, questions and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others. |
| X | Goal 3: recognize and solve problems 1. Identify problems and define their scope and elements |

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| | 2. Develop and apply strategies based on ways others have prevented or solved problems 3. Develop and apply strategies based on one’s experience in preventing or solving problems 4. Evaluate the processes used in recognizing and solving problems 7. Evaluate the extent to which a strategy addresses the problem |
| X | Goal 4: Make decisions and act as responsible members of society 1. Explain reasoning and identify information used to support decisions 4. Recognize and practice honesty and integrity in academic and in the workplace 5. Develop, monitor and revise plans of action to meet deadlines and accomplish goals 6 Identify tasks that require a coordinated effort and work with others to complete those tasks |

This lesson supports the development of skills in the following academic content areas.

| Academic Content Area(s) | Specific Skill(s) |
|---------------------------|---|
| X Communication Arts | Reading, writing, discussion, evaluating information |
| Mathematics | |
| X Social Studies | Relationships of individuals and groups; social inquiry |
| Science | |
| Health/Physical Education | |
| Fine Arts | |

Unit Essential Questions:

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| What does a successful student look like? What choices do you make that impact your success as a student? Why don’t we all learn the same way on the same day? |
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Unit Measurable Learning Objectives:

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| The student will describe five qualities and/or characteristics of a successful student. The student will write a paragraph describing his/her individual learning style and cite three ways his/her academic achievement can improve using learning style strategies. The student will identify two or more skills in the categories of study skills, test-taking skills, and self-management skills. The student will develop two academic success goals and three action steps that can be utilized to accomplish each goal. |
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Unit Instructional Strategies/Instructional Activities:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct (Structured Overview, Explicit Teaching, Compare & Contrast, Guided & Shared) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirect (Problem Solving, Case Studies, Reflective Discussion, Concept Mapping) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experiential (Surveys) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent Study (Essays, Learning Contracts) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive Instruction (Brainstorming, Discussion, Think, Pair Share, Cooperative Learning, Problem Solving) |

Unit Summative Assessment (acceptable evidence):

Assessment should relate to the performance outcome for goals, objectives and GLEs. Assessment can be question answer, performance activity, etc.

Getting Your Grades Together survey and performance activity. Summative Assessment will take place during the 8th grade lesson. Learners will assess their own study skills via the *Getting Your Grades Together* survey. After assessing their skills, students will write an essay describing their plans for applying what they have learned in middle school to high school work. Essays will include the following elements: Discussion of strengths and limitations in the areas of: Time Management Skills, Study Skills, and Test-taking Skills and the steps to personal success in each skill area. This will be a formal essay and follow the conventions of standard English. To add interest, essay may be written as a letter to self.

Brief Summary of Unit:

Students will participate in group discussions involving time management skills, study skills, learning styles, goal-setting, and test-taking strategies.

6th Grade lessons include strategies that help students explore the characteristics and skills of successful learners and strategies designed to help students identify their learning styles.

7th Grade lesson is designed to help students become familiar with the purposes Time Management Skills, Study Skills and Test-taking Skills.

8th Grade: As a summative activity, students will evaluate their current management, study, and test-taking skills using the survey and performance activity, *Getting Your Grades Together*.

NOTE: The counselor/instructor has some latitude with this unit. Some may wish to use *Getting Your Grades Together* for pre- and post-assessment. Others may wish to introduce this activity at the beginning of 6th grade and again at the conclusion of 8th grade. Still others may use this survey throughout the middle school process. The short-answer and essay questions are designed for the post-test phase at the end of 8th grade, but may be omitted when using the survey for earlier grades.

The counselor/instructor may want to use the survey information to work with at-risk students to discuss student perceptions versus student performance.

What prior knowledge do students need (e.g. the steps to solving a problem) to be successful in this unit?

Basic working vocabulary related to time management skills, study skills, and test-taking skills.