



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

GET OFF TO A GREAT START-The start of a new school year is the time to make resolutions. Instead of making vague statements such as "I'm going to do better in school this year", here are some concrete ideas to help you get off to a great start.

- **Organize your schoolwork** - Keep each subject in a separate notebook or separate your binder with dividers. Mentoring students **NEED** to keep all of their work (assignments, quizzes, tests, and papers) in their mentoring binder, which will be divided into sections by classes. Keep an agenda book/organizer to track all your assignment due dates and upcoming tests. Get a three-hole punch so that any loose papers can quickly and easily be added into your binder where they belong.
- **Develop a positive rapport with your professors** - Chat with your friends between classes, not during class. Ask questions if any lessons are unclear. The professor needs to know what points are not getting across to the students. Make the effort to be on time, with the materials you need for that class. Make it a point to stop by the professor's office during their scheduled office hours or by appointment to ask questions, to receive clarification, and to build your relationship with him/her.
- **Develop a homework routine** - Set aside a specific place and time for doing your homework each day. Go over your homework for the day so you know how much you have to accomplish. Try to do the tougher assignments first while your brain is still fresh. Utilize the study hall and tutoring services. Make a schedule at the beginning of the semester of what times you will go to study hall and/or tutoring.
- **Get involved... but not too involved** - School is full of other opportunities to get involved, with everything from sports to student government to volunteering and internships to peer counseling. Take advantage of these opportunities and find something you like to do. Be careful, though, not to get so involved you don't have time for your schoolwork. Make sure your priorities are in the right order, with school first of course!
- **Make new friends** - Make the effort to expand your circle of friends. Strike up a conversation with the new kids in your class, or get acquainted with someone you've been in classes with for years, but never really talked to. Getting to know new people should be a lifelong task.
- **If you stumble, try again** - Like most resolutions, there will be times when you feel you've blown it. Don't give up. Keep this list handy, and start again. Mistakes and failures can serve as great learning tools if you choose to utilize them in a proactive and positive way.