

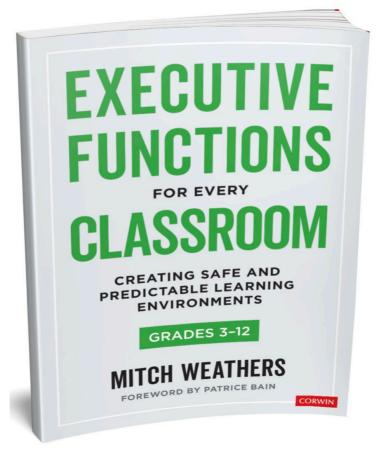
Executive functions for every classroom

Creating safe and predictable learning environments, Grades 3 - 12

Mitch Weathers

June 2025

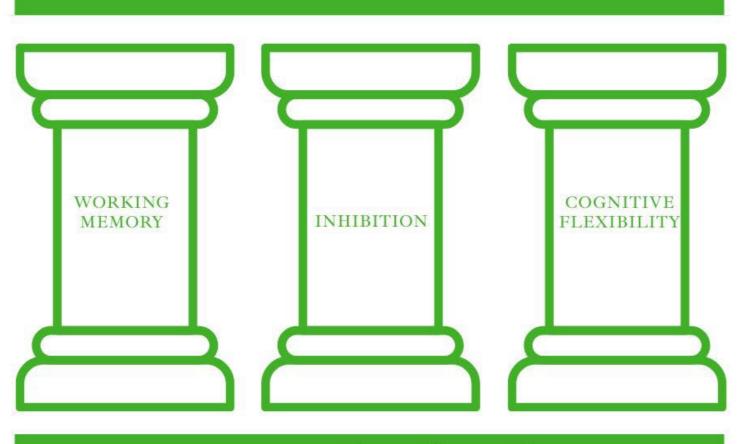








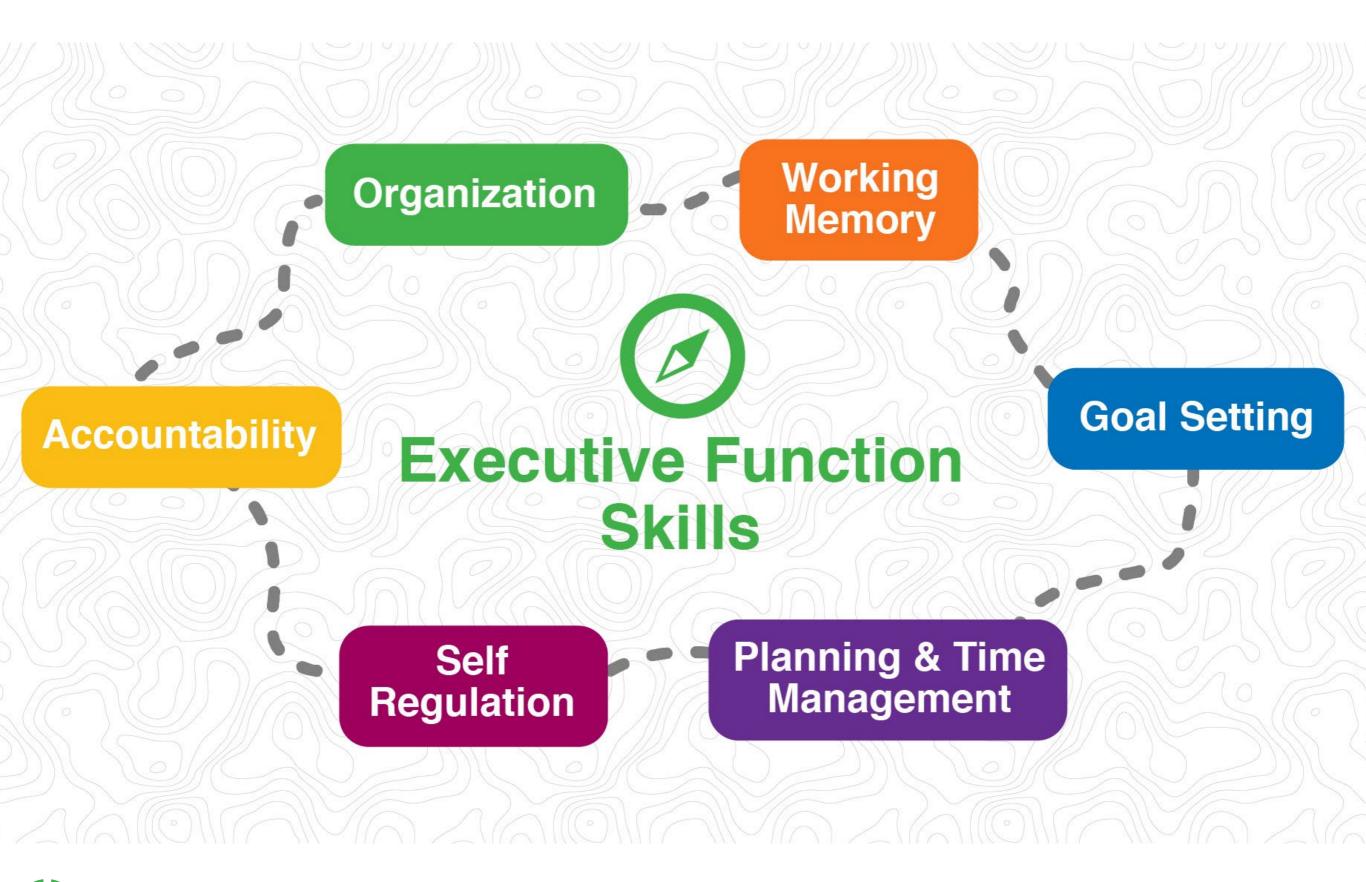




core executive functions







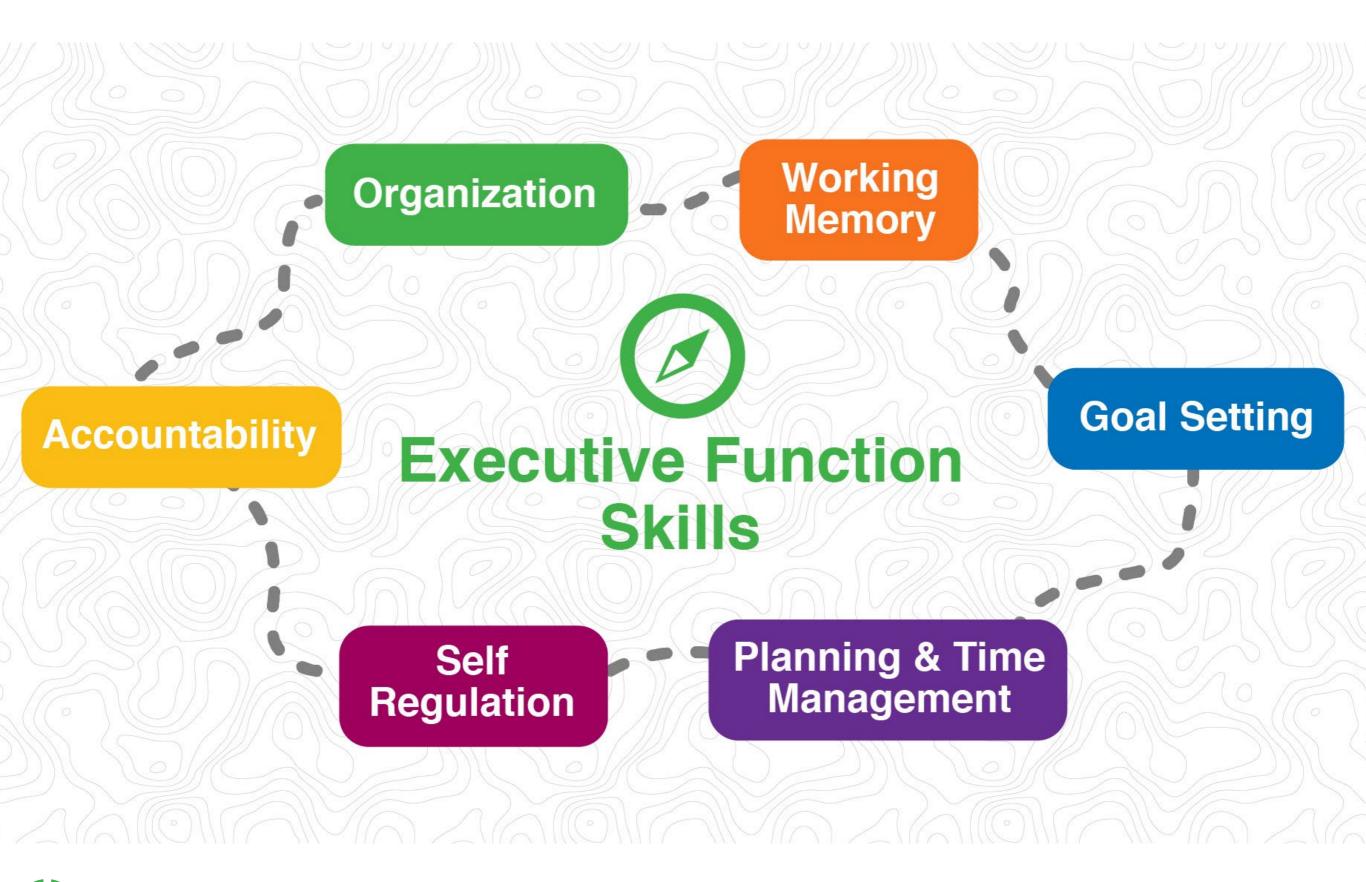


Executive Functioning Skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully.



Studentness







"...if we can improve a child's environment in the specific ways that lead to better executive functioning, we can increase [their] prospects for success in a particularly efficient way."

Paul Tough - How Children Succeed



Executive Dysfunction

"...executive dysfunction is about the person and their environment, not the person alone. With that in mind...think of symptoms of executive dysfunction as signs of potential trouble in your learning environments and the unmet needs of your students."

Lisa Carey & Alexis Reid, Supporting Student Executive Functions

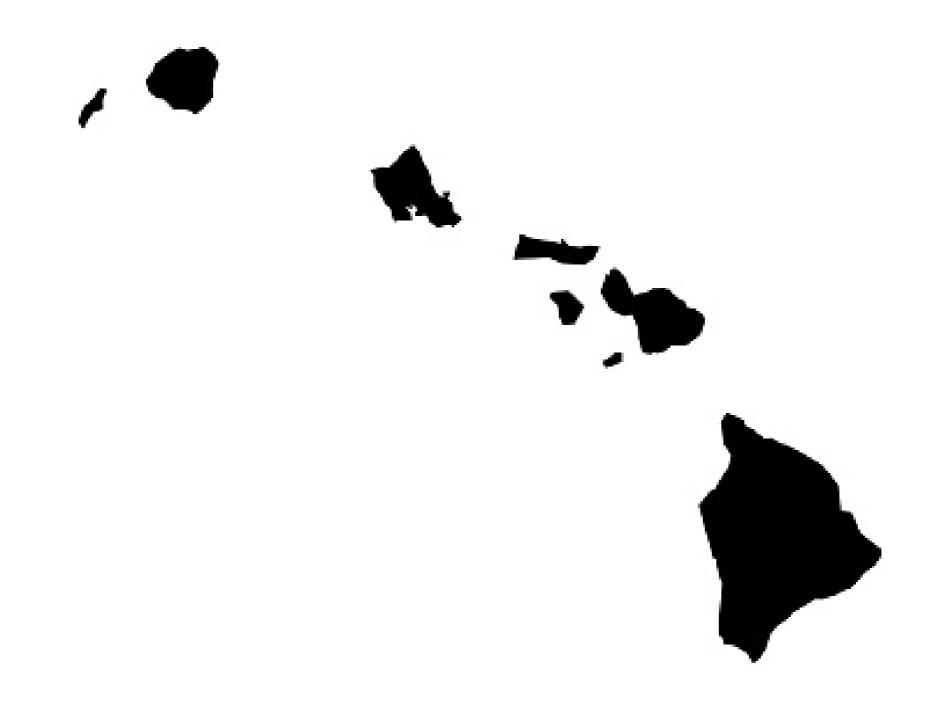


Executive functioning skills are not taught!



They are best *learned* when students clearly see them modelled while getting daily practice employing them by engaging in the predictable daily learning routine!









Ma ka hana ka 'ike



The knowing is in the doing.







Not Taught?

1. Time Crunch.

2. Zone of Genius.





The Good News

Executive functions are trainable and can be improved at any age...repeated practice is key.

Diamond, Executive Functions



3 Keys

Clarity

Modeling

Routine





For the sake of clarity and modeling, Organized Binder student samples are shown throughout this session.





"Ambiguity is the enemy. Any successful change requires a translation of ambiguous goals into concrete behavior. In short to make a switch, you must script the critical moves."

Chip Heath and Dan Heath, Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard









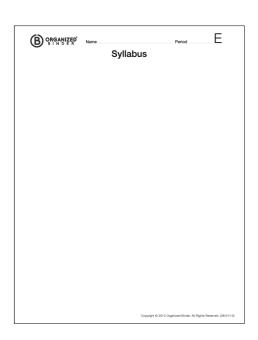
Cambridge Schools Conference, June 2025
Future-ready: preparing learners to thrive



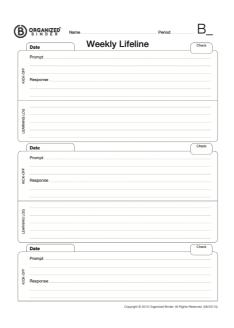
Organized Binder



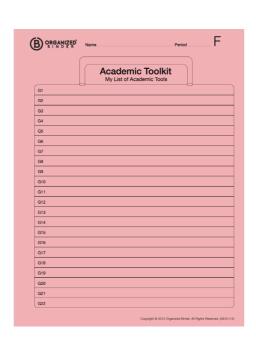
A: Goals



E: Syllabus



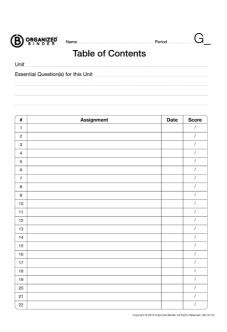
B: Weekly Lifelines



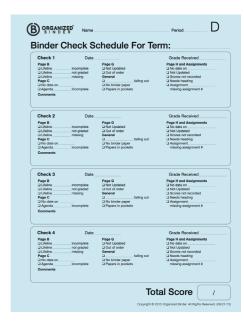
F: Academic Toolkit



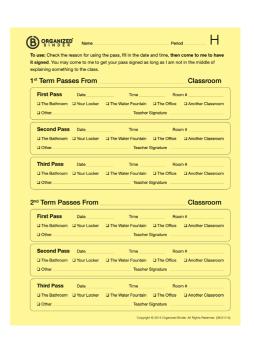
C: Agendas



G: Table of Contents



D: Binder Check



H: Passes (optional)







"We must be careful not to remove the very explicitness that the child needs to understand the rules of the new classroom culture."

Lisa Delpit, Other People's Children

3 Keys

Clarity

Modeling

Routine





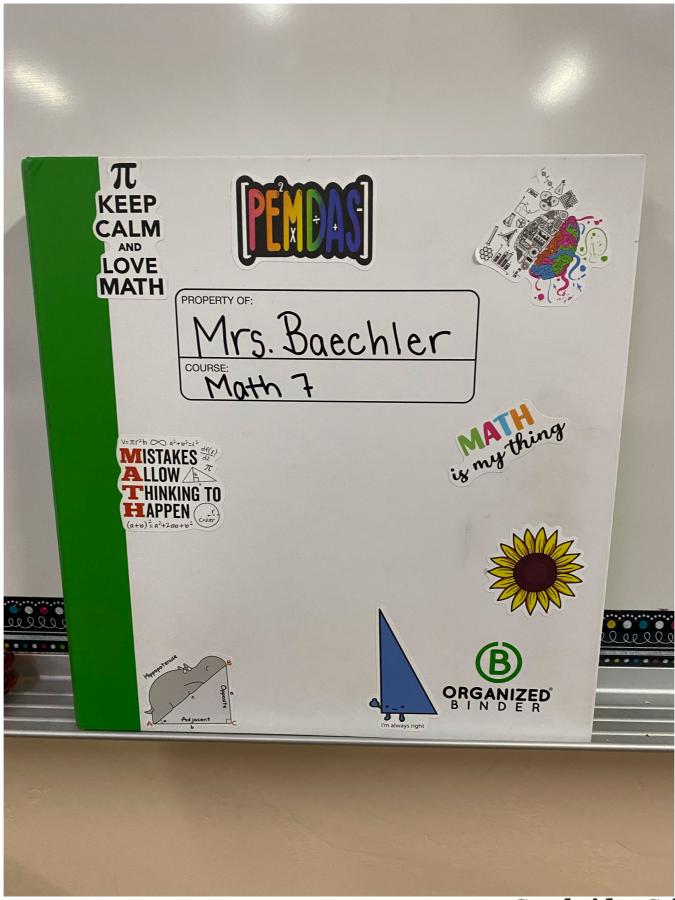


"In moving to college and career readiness for all, we must now teach some skills formerly learned by students on their own. All students need lessons and modeling of study and work skills like time and task management, note taking, and assignment completion strategies..."

Robert Belfanz, Putting Middle Grades Students on The Graduation Path

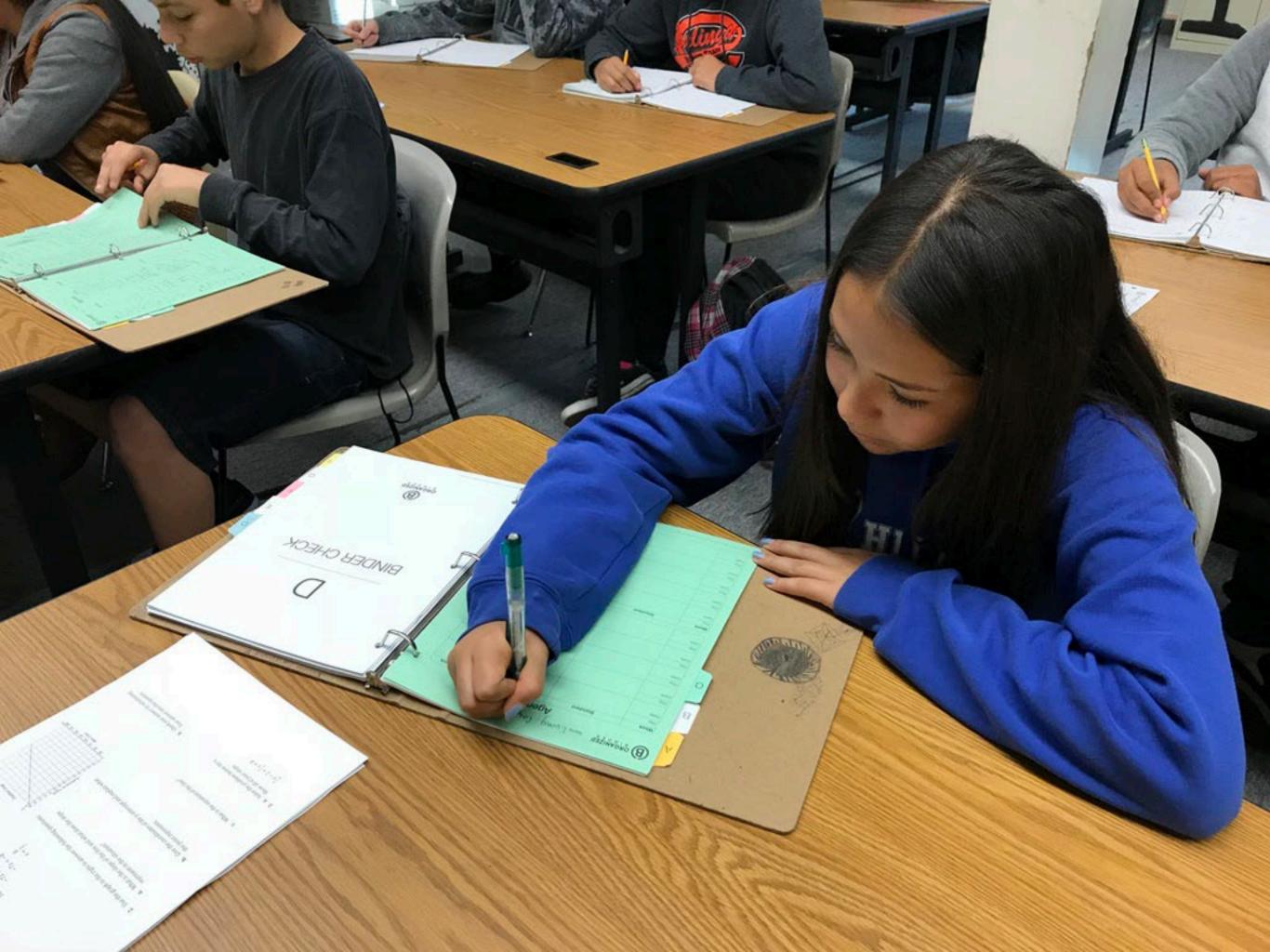














"...even subtle forms of attention / inattention can be passed from one student to another. The authors refer to this as an **attention contagion**, likening the spread of attentive or inattentive behaviors to the way a virus or disease spreads."

Forrin et al. (2021)

3 Keys

Clarity

Modeling

Routine







"Consider one unmistakable driver of students' achievement: Carefully built and practiced routines..."

Doug Lemov, Teach Like A Champion





Daily Routine





Cambridge Schools Conference, June 2025 Future-ready: preparing learners to thrive



Automaticity

"Safe, structured and predictable environments help students self-regulate, sustain attention and engage effectively with learning. Students who have been explicitly taught and practiced routines for learning until they become automatic can spend less mental effort managing their behavior and interactions and, instead, focus their working memory resources on learning"

Chaffee et al., 2017; Simonsen et al., 2008





Repetition

"Through repetition and practice, students can reduce the demand on their limited working memory resources by making the use of knowledge and its associated behaviors automatic."

Australian Education Research Organization - Attention and Focus





Shared Routine

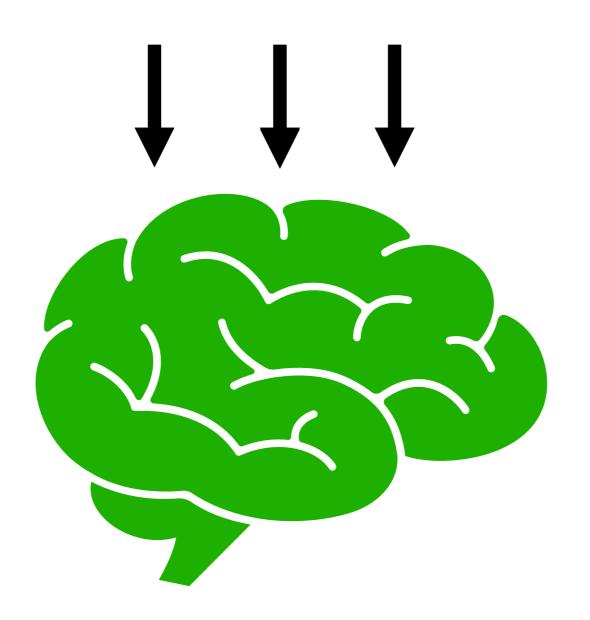
'Cognitive load" relates to the amount of information that working memory can hold at one time...since working memory has a limited capacity, instructional methods should avoid overloading it with additional activities that don't directly contribute to learning.

Cognitive Load Theory John Sweller, Paul Ayres, Slava Kalyuga



Cognitive Load

Extraimeousdadd

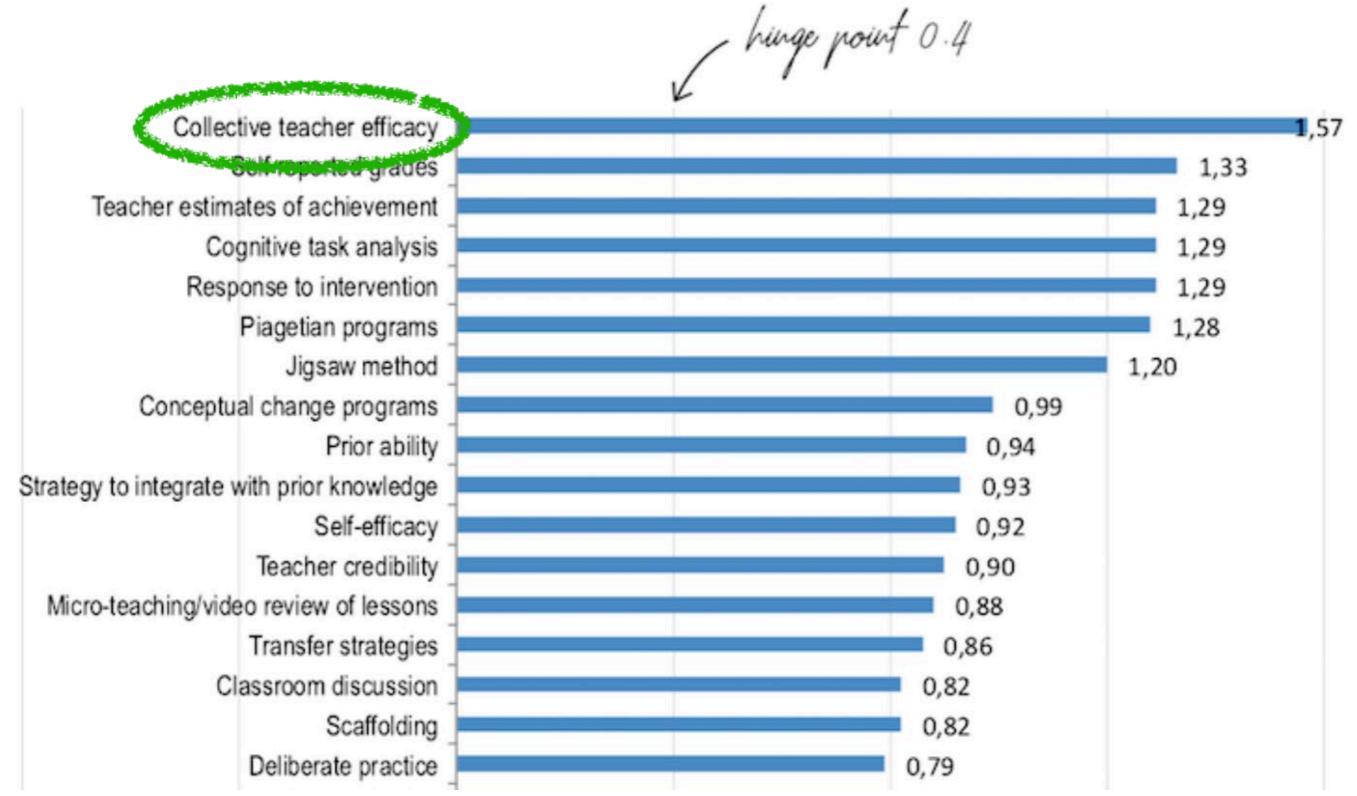




Collective teacher efficacy is the belief that teachers can more positively impact the learning of their students if they work as a team.



Effect Size





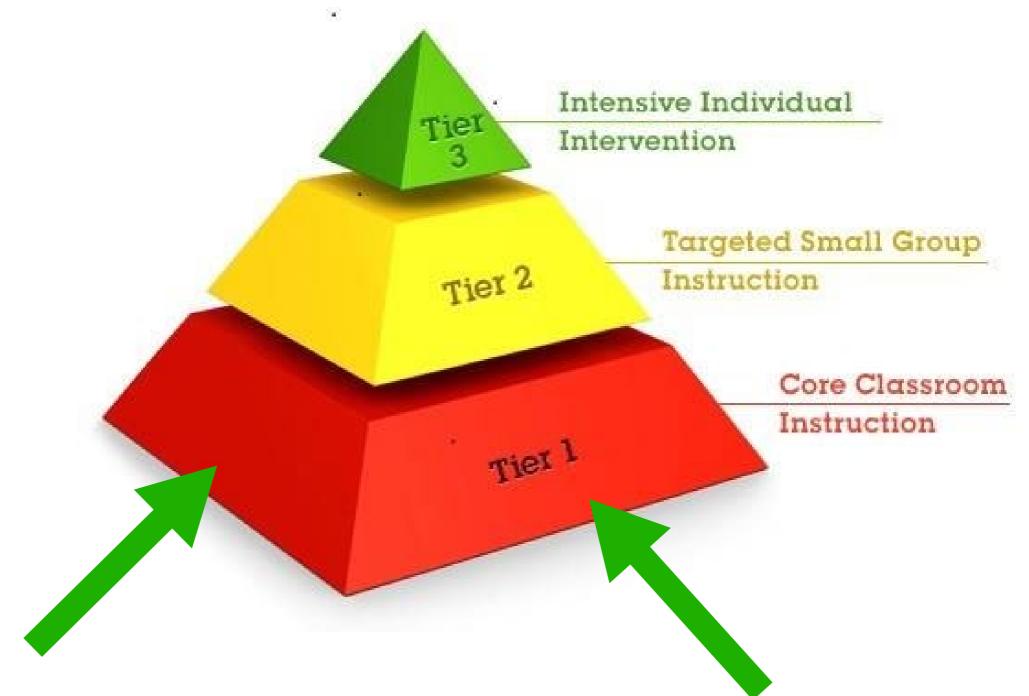


"Schools cannot expect a change in outcomes until initiatives are implemented by the majority of the teachers."

Donohoo & Katz, Quality implementation: Leveraging Collective Efficacy to Make Strategy Work



A Universal Tier 1 Intervention







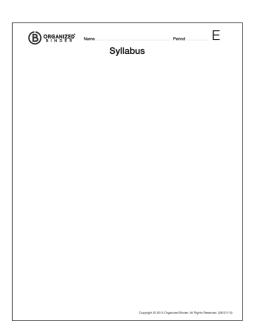


Cambridge Schools Conference, June 2025
Future-ready: preparing learners to thrive

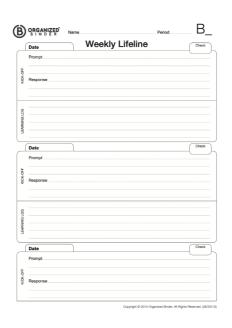
Organized Binder



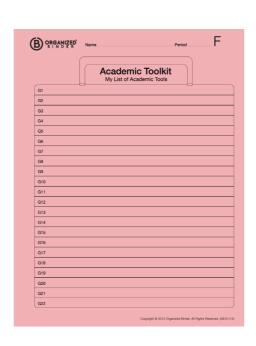
A: Goals



E: Syllabus



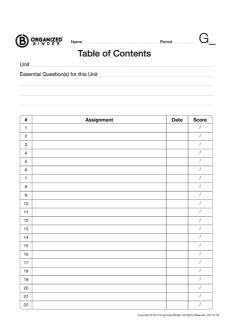
B: Weekly Lifelines



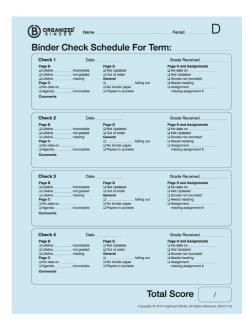
F: Academic Toolkit



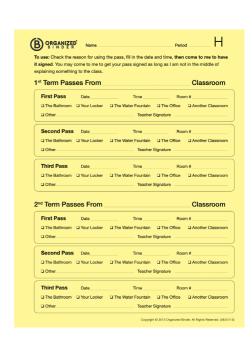
C: Agendas



G: Table of Contents



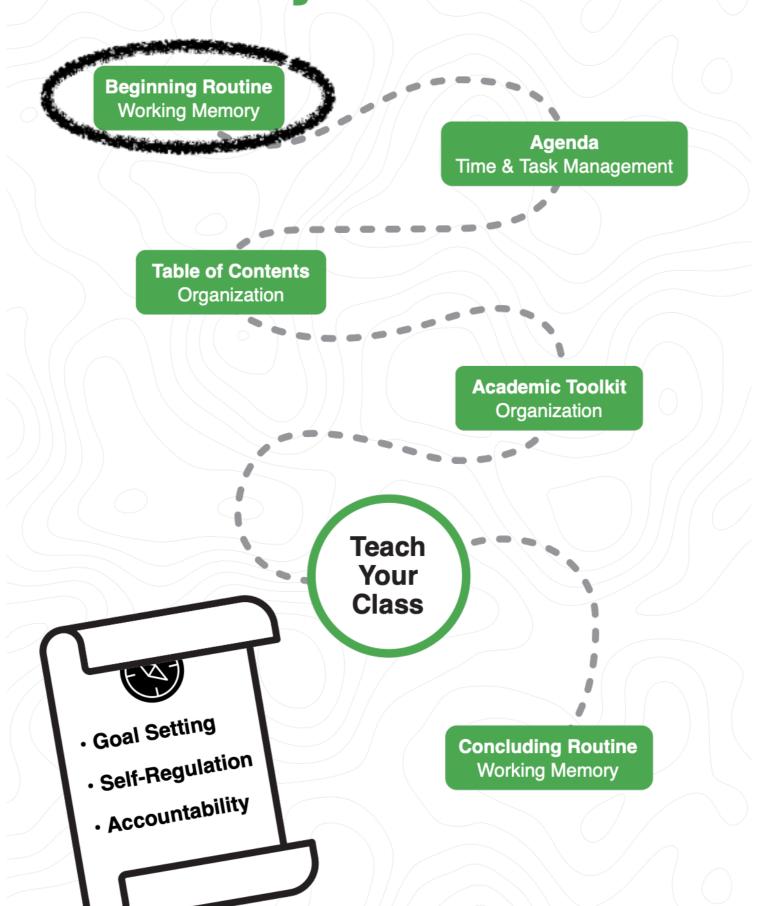
D: Binder Check



H: Passes (optional)

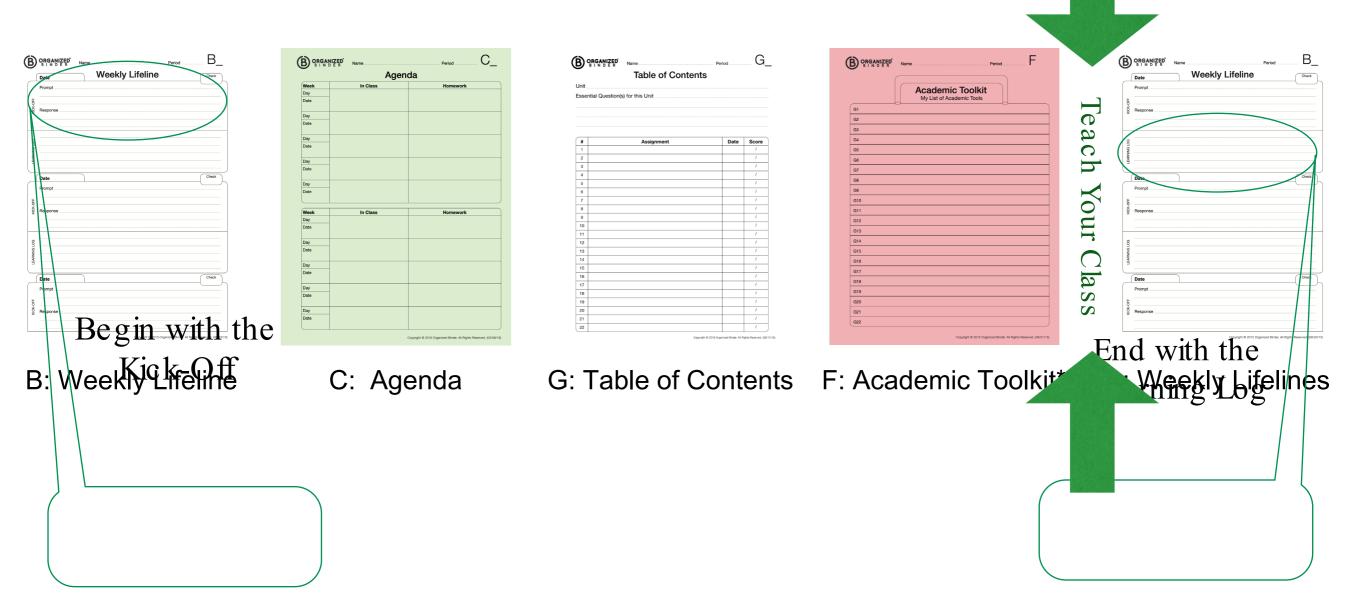


Daily Routine





Daily Sequence: B (Kick-Off), C, G, F*, and B (Learning Log)



^{*}Page F: Academic Toolkit may not be used each day in class.



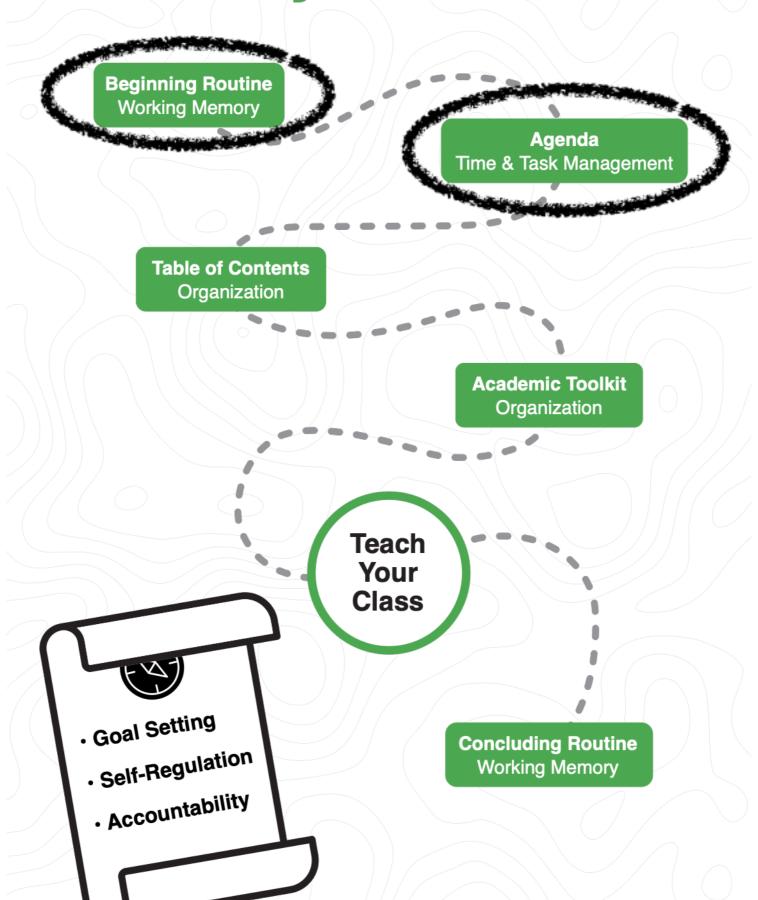
(B)	ORG.	ANIZED° N	lame Yo	ur Nam	ne Here	Period _	1st	B <u>5</u>
		Date	9/14/23	W	eekly	Lifeline	•		Check
	KICK-OFF	p	ntent spec revious da prward.	_	_				
	LEARNING LOG								
(Date							Check
	KICK-OFF	Promp							
	LEARNING LOG								
		Date	9/16/23						Check
	U_	Promp	t						
	KICK-OFF	Respo	nse						

"Based on a century of research, in order to transform learning, we must focus on getting information out - a strategy called retrieval practice."

Agarwal and Bain, Powerful Teaching - Unleash the Science of Learning



Daily Routine





Agenda

Week		
Day Date 9/14/23	-Chemistry review -Molecule diagrams -Q&A 1-4 p. 405 (#4)	Review notes (#2)
Day Date 9/15/23	-Circulatory Notes -Diagram and coloring of blood vessels	Review #4
Day Date 9/16/23	-Pre lab set up for heart dissection	Finish Write-Up
Day Date 9/17/23		
Day Date 9/18/23		

Week		
Day		
Date 9/21/23		
Day		
Date 9/22/23		
Day		
Date 9/23/23		
Day		Review Lab
Date 9/24/23		Report
Day	-Cardio Lab Report Due	
Date 9/25/23		

Daily Routine







Name Your Name Here

Period	

G1

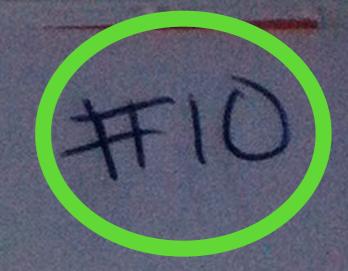
Table of Contents

Unit	Cardio	vascular	and	Respira	tory S	Systems

Essential Question(s) for this Unit

	#	Assignment	Date	Score
	1	KWL Chart on the C and R systems	9/14	/ 5
	2	Notes on the Circulatory System	9/15	/ 5
	3	Heart Diagram	9/15	n/a
L	4	Q and A 1-4 Page 405	9/16	/ 5
\angle	5	Coloring Blood Vessels	9/17	/ 5
	6	The pathway of blood worksheet	9/17	/ 5
	7	Heart Dissection	9/21	/22
	8	Slideshow on a heart disorder	9/23	/15
	9	Circulatory System Quiz	9/25	/15
	10	Notes on the Respiratory System	9/25	/ 5
	11			/
	12			/
	13			/
	14			/
	15			/
	16			/
	17			/
	18			/
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	20			/
	21			/
	22			1

Unhealthy Relationships



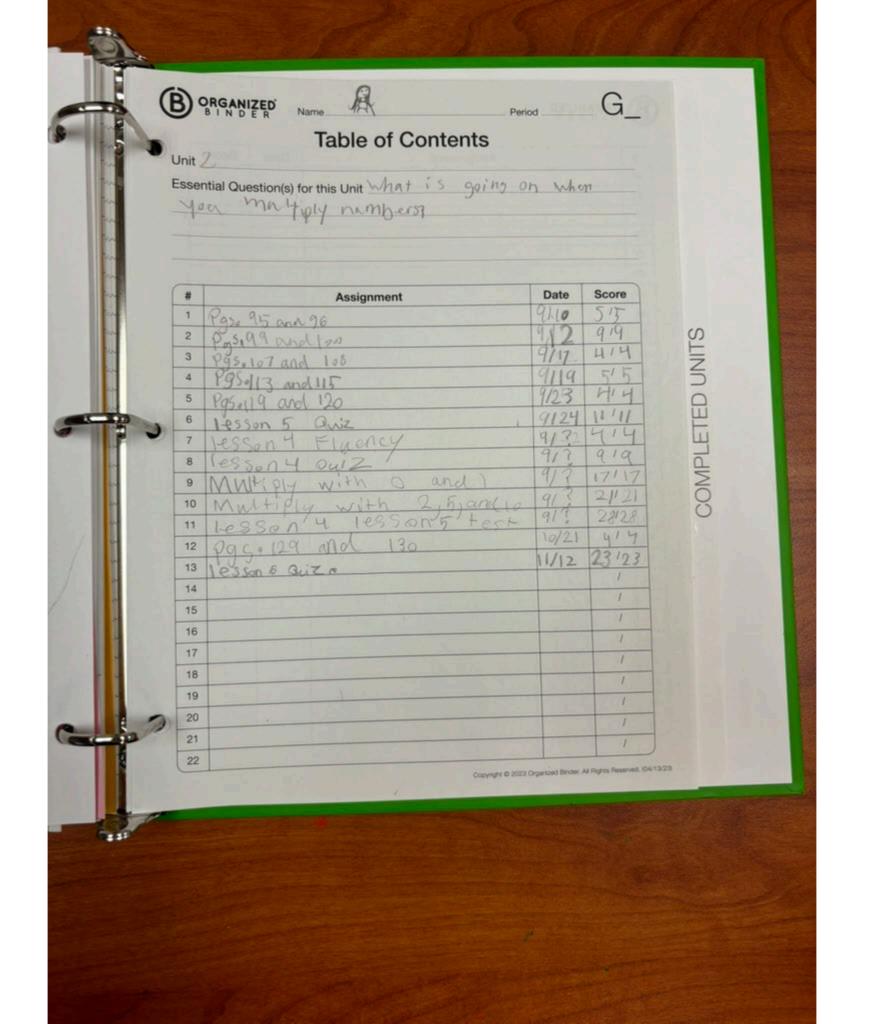
Name

Date Period

sory neurons, interneurons, and motor

pens during a simple physical activity.

The time it takes to catch a falling ruler.







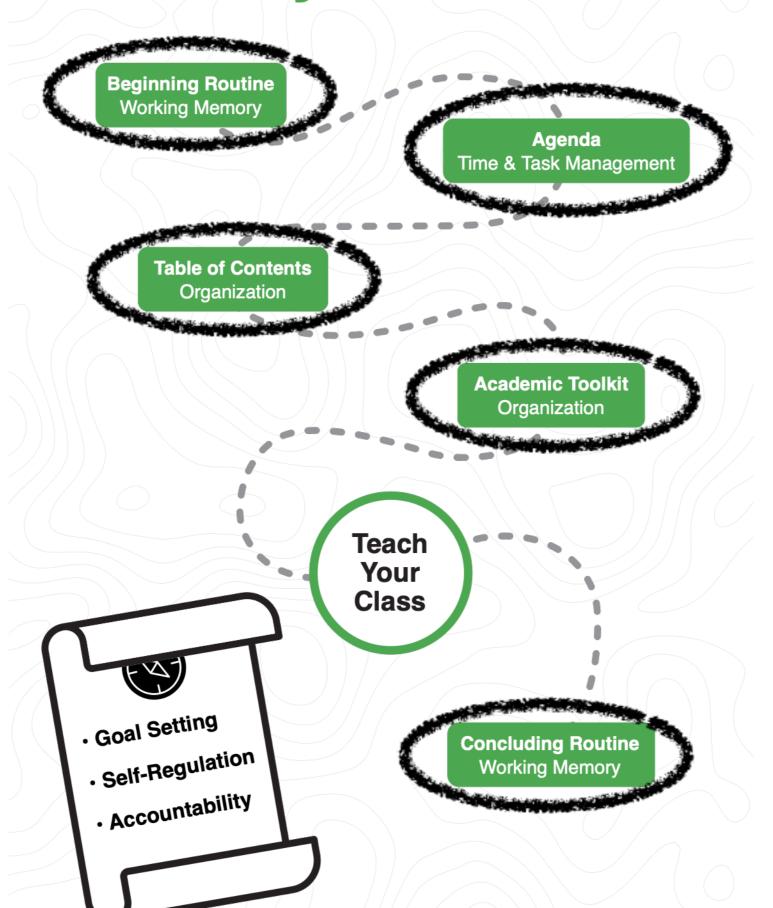
Academic Toolkit

My List of Academic Tools

F1	The Scientific Method
F2	Academic Vocabulary
F3	Metric and Scientific Conversion
F4	How to Write a Lab Report
F5	How to submit an assignment using Google Docs
F6	How to create an iMovie
F7	How to upload to docs to Canvas & Google Classroom
F8	
F9	
F10	
F11	
F12	
F13	
F14	
F15	
F16	
F17	
F18	
F19	
F20	
F21	
F22	



Daily Routine





Name Your Name Here

Period 1st

Weekly Grade

LEARNING LOG		
	Date	Check
	Prompt	
KICK-OFF	Response	
LEARNING LOG		
	Date	Check
<u> </u>	Prompt	
KICK-OFF	Response	
LEARNING LOG		
=		

Learning Log Starters

Your sentences may begin like the following examples or you can make up your own complete sentences.

In class today I learned...
In this lesson I learned about...
I used to think....now I think...
Although I learned about....
I wonder...



Response ing Log Starters Coon Weekly Grade ntences may begin like the following examples or you can make up your own complete sentences. s today I learned... • In this lesson I learned about... th I learned about.....in class today, I am confused about.... 2013 M. Weathers. All Rights Reserved. (1/13/2013)

"To get knowledge to the brain, you have to go through the heart."

Josh Stamper, The Language of Behavior

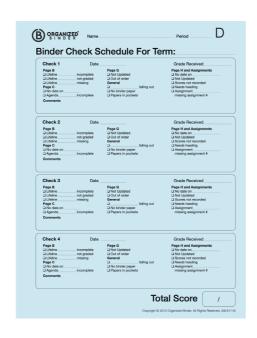


Monthly, Quarterly, or throughout the school year sequence: A, D, E and H



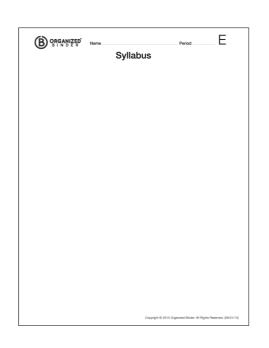
A: Goal Setting





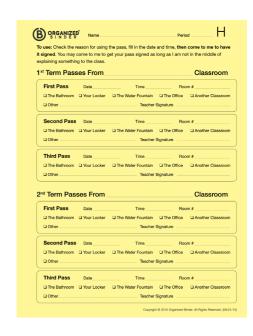
D: Binder Check





E: Syllabus

Referenced throughout the school year



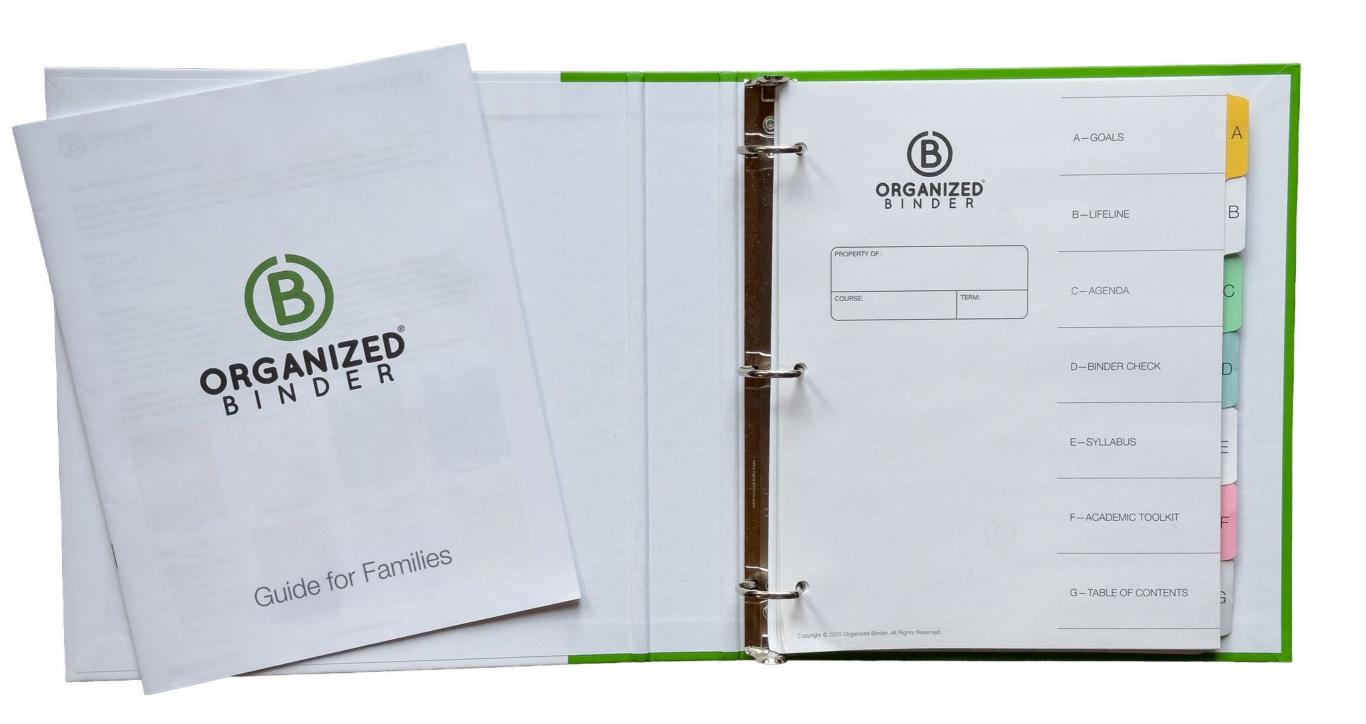
H: Passes

As needed throughout marking period













Guide for Families

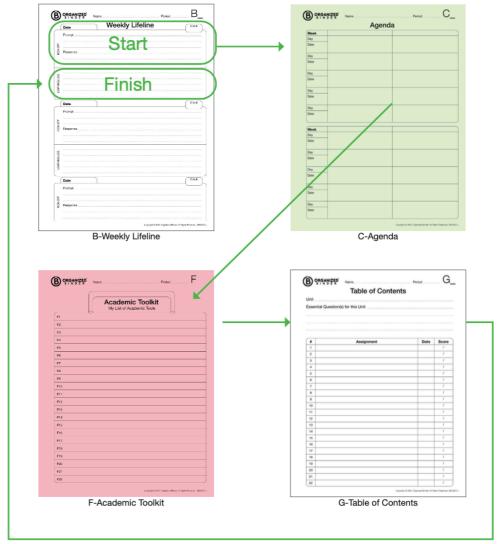


PAGES USED DAILY

Pages used daily: Pages B, C, F, and G

Organized Binder ritualizes classroom routines; making the best use of every class minute. Each class period the teacher begins with a Kick-Off Prompt on the Weekly Lifeline (Page B). Next, the Agenda (Page C) for the day is completed. Third, the day's assignments are recorded in the Table of Contents (Page G). Finally, the lesson circles back to the Weekly Lifeline, where the student completes the Learning Log section. On occasion the teacher will reference the Academic Toolkit (Page F).

Sequence of pages used daily:



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PAGE B: WEEKLY LIFELINE

Page B: Weekly Lifeline

The Weekly Lifeline consists of the Kick-Off prompt and the Learning Log, which are used to begin and end class. Usually teachers use the Kick-Off prompt to review the previous class's content standards or objectives. If you want to know exactly what your student is learning in class, read the Kick-Off prompts.

The Learning Log is how class is concluded with Organized Binder. Each day in class your student will reflect on what was learned from the lesson and/or what was confusing. Students are required to practice using grammatically correct, complete sentences in English (academic English) when writing Learning Logs. Often, this level of English language practice is only done in English or support classes. Students gain this language practice in all subjects implementing Organized Binder.

Students have a Weekly Lifeline for each week of the semester (B1, B2, B3, etc).

How you can support:

- · Ask your student about the Kick-Off prompt(s) they worked on in class.
- Ask them to summarize the content of what they learned that day in class, not just what they did in class.
- · Read your student's Learning Logs; on a daily basis if you can!

Skills Practiced:

Metacognition, reflection, organizing materials, study skills, creating study resources, belonging to an academic community.





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PAGE C: AGENDA

Page C: Agenda

The Agenda is used to identify the content standards or objectives covered in class each day. It also provides a snapshot of how those will be taught, and whether or not there is homework. In addition, the Agenda is used to teach the skill of using a calendar. Each new Agenda page is represented by C1, C2, C3, etc.

How you can support:

- · Review the Agenda with your student, being sure to ask if they have homework and when it is due.
- Look at what was done in class and ask your student to summarize what they learned or what
 confused them from those activities/assignments. Avoid having your student tell you "what they
 did in class." Ask your student about any important assignments or assessments coming up in
 the future.

Skills practiced:

Time and task management, maintaining a calendar, organizing materials, self-discipline, balancing school and other demands

	Agenda	a	
Week			
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"...simply raising standards in our schools, without giving students the means of reaching them, is a recipe for disaster. It just pushes the poorly prepared or poorly motivated students into failure and out of school."

Carol Dweck Mindset: The New Psychology of Success



Contact and Updates

- mitch@organizedbinder.com
- www.organizedbinder.com
- @organizedbinder









Your feedback

Please let us know your views on this session

Scan the QR code and share your feedback with us

