

It's About (Your) Time!

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Pick Up and Get Organized!

Can you believe the year is going by so quickly? It seems that just a few weeks ago we welcomed the new year, and now we are talking about summer vacation! The winter months are upon us. You've heard about "Spring Cleaning" before; here are some ideas for getting organized quickly...

Go through your desk, your backpack, your school locker (if you have one!) and throw away, return, file or recycle anything you don't need anymore.

Throw away: Any supplies (pens, pencils, white out, etc) that don't work anymore!

Return: Bring any books back to libraries, give CDs or DVDs back to your friends.

File: Gather all your homework that your teacher returned, and any tests you have taken and file at home.

Recycle: Paper, newspaper, magazines, (if you find any in your room or locker!) soda cans!

Use this "pick up" to make it easy to focus on what you need to do as you get closer to the end of the quarter or semester.

Many people ask us, "How can I learn faster and more effectively?"

Consider this quote: "The more we learn, the more we can do. The more we do, the more we can learn. But in all this doing and learning, let's not forget one of the most important lessons of all - enjoyment." - John-Roger and Peter McWilliams

Students are always responsible for learning more, and learning faster. Essentially, there are three ways to learn something new. They are: Touching, Hearing and Seeing.

Although we *all* learn using *all* three modalities, have you noticed that some are more natural to you than others? Which of the three do you find yourself counting on the most? Remember, learning styles are unique to everyone.

Touching/Moving: Learning is managed with pieces, like a puzzle. By moving the position of information (time lines, storyboards, etc), you can very effectively define how the parts are separate, and how they fit together. Also, you may move your body as you study; bouncing knees, and tapping feet are common traits of movers.

Hearing/Saying: Learning comes easily after reading or hearing something. Talking about what you know is a way to find out how completely you understand the information. Often, you formulate your understanding as you talk.

Seeing/Looking: "A picture is worth a thousand words." To a visual learner, the opportunity to "see" the content is very important. Picking up clues to understand new material is easy when there is something to view. Pictures, videos, tapestries, models... all of these are ways for visual learners to gain a "clear" understanding. Realizing you learn by Touching, Hearing and Seeing is important for students of all ages.

Finding your strengths will go a long way in getting your homework done and studying for tests. In fact, if you maximize your learning styles while studying, you may find it takes less time to finish your studies, and you learn more in the process!

For the next 5 days, take note of the opportunities you have to learn. In the classroom realize just how you are taking in new information. Keep a tally of how many times you get to Touch, Hear or See new information. Track your preferences. At the end of the five days, you will have information you can use. As you find out which learning scenarios are the easiest for you, you can then create more opportunities to learn...your way.

Doing so will save you time.