

Top 10 Tips for Success at Malow



What do the most successful Malow students have in common?

#1 Do Their Homework – Successful Malow students devote time to homework. Our suggested homework guideline is about 10 minutes per grade level (7th grade = 70 minutes, 8th grade = 80 minutes, 9th grade = 90 minutes). An additional 20 minutes can be expected for each honors/accelerated/AP class. Parents can swap the question, “Do you have homework tonight?” for “When will you do your study time?” Successful students study each school night (Sunday through Thursday). Students who don’t do homework struggle, fall behind in credits and often end up in the alternative education program.

#2 Use PowerSchool – Successful Malow students typically check PowerSchool on a daily or weekly basis and have parents who do the same. Parents can sign up for e-mail alerts from PowerSchool. An app is available and the UCS district code is NKDJ.

#3 Use an Agenda/Planner – Successful Malow students use an agenda/planner and update it during each class period by recording homework for that night and making note of any upcoming quizzes, tests, or long term projects.

#4 Have Supportive Parents/Guardians— Successful Malow students typically have parents who come to Open House and Fall/Spring Conferences. They communicate with teachers by e-mail as needed. It can be tough for parents to determine how involved they should be during the junior high school years. The level of parent involvement needed often depends on the development of the child. Parents can use PowerSchool as a guide for how involved to be. Missing assignments and low grades are a red flag that the child needs more support.

#5 Are Motivated – Successful Malow students typically have an internal drive to succeed and use available supports as needed. For kids who haven’t yet developed this self-motivation, parents may need to intervene by using motivational strategies (rewards, consequences) at home. Before school, after school and lunchtime help is often available from teachers. Malow offers an after school homework club Monday through Thursday—tutors are often available.

#6 Have Good Attendance – Successful Malow students have very few absences. During junior high school, absences are much more difficult to recover from than they were during elementary school. Successful students who must be absent approach each of their 6 teachers to ask about work missed and arrange to make up tests and quizzes missed.

#7 Prepare for Exams— Successful Malow students take mid-term and final exams seriously. During 7th grade and 8th grade these exams count for 10% of the final semester grade in each class. In 9th grade, exams count for 20% of the final semester grade. Students save unit tests/review guides and keep materials organized for less stress at exam time.

#8 Get Involved in Clubs or Activities – Successful Malow students are typically involved in one or more school clubs, activities or sports. They make schoolwork a priority as they plan their sports/extracurricular schedules. They find a balance that allows them to get their schoolwork done and be involved in extracurricular activities without becoming overwhelmed by them.

#9 Have Good Behavior – Successful Malow students follow school rules and avoid detentions and suspensions.

#10 Stay Away from Drama – Successful Malow students typically focus on their school work and avoid drama at school. These students use social media and texting only for positive posts and communication.