

# New Student Orientation, Middle School: How to Get Good Grades

Are you ready to learn the secret to getting good grades in your courses? Great news! There is no secret! It takes time and hard work to get good grades, but it's worth it! You learn amazing things, develop practical life skills, and work towards an accredited diploma.

As a middle school student, you can even work toward:

- [The Honor Roll or Scholar's List](#)
- [Dean's List](#) (7th and 8th grade only)

## Completing Lessons

### Take hand-written notes

Taking handwritten notes is one of the best practices you can adopt to both maintain and raise your grades. In addition, taking notes is a great way to process information. Enlightium even allows you to use all handwritten notes while working on quizzes and tests.

**School Hack:** Want more note taking tips? Read Enlightium's blog [Better Course Notes. Better Grades. 5 Strategies that Work.](#)

### Use Livebinders

Livebinders is an online library of supplemental material curated by Enlightium teachers. For example, if you're stuck on the first lesson of your English assignment, you can find in Livebinders additional resources to help you with the material. Please note that not every course will have Livebinder material.

[Watch Livebinder video](#)

School Hack: [Bookmark Livebinders](#) right now.

Ask your teacher or parent/guardian for help



**Professor Albert the Owl, an Enlightium Teacher**

If you are in the [Silver](#), [Silver+](#), [Gold](#), [Diamond](#), or [Sapphire Live packages](#), you have support from Enlightium teachers! Your teachers want to help you, but **you will need to reach out to them via the chat box in Ignitia** to tell them when you're stuck.



**Eleanor the Eagle, an Enlightium Parent**

If you're in the **Bronze package**, your parent/guardian agreed to help you out when you have questions about the curriculum. Ask them for assistance, and they should be able to help you understand the material.

Are you not sure which support package you have? Click [here](#) to find out.

## Completing Projects

If you don't plan ahead for projects, you can find that they spring out of nowhere and throw a wrench into your schedule.

So what can you do? As each class is assigned:

- **Look to see if it has any projects using Enlightium's [Project Forecasts](#).** These will tell you each project's unit (so that you can plan for when it will be assigned), the approximate difficulty, and the approximate time commitment.

- **Look to see if it has any [required supplies](#).** Purchase the supplies ahead of time so that when a project is assigned, you're ready to go. If you will be unable to get some supplies, send your teacher a direct message with details and request a workaround.

## Taking Quizzes

When working on a quiz:

- Take your time
- Use your handwritten notes

If you score below a 73% on a quiz, you can take it a second time to earn a higher score. To retake it:

1. Recall any information on the quiz that was more challenging for you.
2. Go into your previous lesson and look at your notes to review this material.
3. Once you are ready, you can begin your second attempt at the quiz. Since you will not know which questions you got correct or incorrect, it is important to go through every question as if it was the first time completing the quiz.
4. Retake the quiz. The most recent score between the two attempts will be your final score for that quiz. However, you can message your teacher to request that the higher score is used instead.

If you simply retake the quiz without following all of the above steps, chances are that you won't fully understand the material. Remember that your unit test will likely cover the same content, so if you don't relearn the material you may miss it during the test.

[Watch Accessing Previous Assignments video](#)

## Taking Tests

How can you do well on a test? There are several tips that will help. The tips can be broken down into the following three categories:

- Things to do before taking the test.
- Things to do during the test.
- After the test.

## Before taking the test

- Reread your notes.
- Rewrite key concepts from your notes.
- Skim your daily lessons.
- Practice before taking the actual test. You can make "your own test" by taking questions directly out of previously completed lessons and/or quizzes. Answer them and check your answers afterward. You can also ask a parent, sibling, or friend to quiz you by asking the questions and checking your answers.
- Take care of any personal activities such as eating a snack, drinking some water, or using the restroom before you take the test.

## During the test

- Use your handwritten notes.
- Look through all of the questions when you first open the test so that you can get an idea of the questions that you will be answering.
- Keep in mind that once the test has been opened, you will need to complete it in a single sitting.
- Answer the questions you know well first, then go back to the more difficult questions. Even though you have no time limit, this will give you the confidence to move on to the harder questions.
- Be sure to click "next question" after each question so that your answers are saved.
- When completing a question, make sure you read and understand all of the directions. Use scratch paper if it helps.
- Review and double-check all of the questions before submitting the test. Make sure you follow directions carefully to ensure that you don't make any simple mistakes.

- Take a moment to brainstorm about how you might answer essay questions before you start them. Consider creating an outline on paper to better organize your ideas. This will give your essay responses better structure and will make it less overwhelming to answer these types of questions.
- Proofread your responses to essay questions at least once before submitting them so you don't lose credit for grammatical and/or spelling mistakes.
- You **may NOT open any other tabs** on your computer **while working on a quiz or a test**.

## After the test

- In most cases (not all), an alternate test is available. If you score below 60% on the initial test, then you can send a message to your teacher in Ignitia requesting to take the alternate test.
- You may be asked to make corrections before you are granted the opportunity to take the alternative test. This is to help you study!
- It is important to remember that a teacher is not required to provide you with an alternative test. If you have a history of taking your time when completing assignments, turning in all projects, and reaching out when you have questions, your teacher will be more likely to allow the alternative test to be provided.
- So what happens if your score on the alternative test is lower than the first test? By default, the second score is the one stored in Ignitia. However, the [Family Handbook](#) states that you may request that your teacher accepts the first test score instead.

## Extra Credit

### Provided by Teachers

Enlightium's extra credit policy is simple: Teachers can assign extra credit, but it's their choice. Some teachers will send out extra credit opportunities toward the end of a

grading period. Also, students may request extra credit, but it will not always be available.

Keep in mind that if you have projects you have not completed or have not put forth the effort to make corrections on quizzes below 70%, the teacher will most likely deny your request. You must show effort on a consistent basis for a teacher to consider a request for extra credit.



**Professor Albert the Owl, an Enlightium Teacher**

## Reading Program

You can also get extra credit with Enlightium's [reading program](#). You can choose any book from Enlightium's Recommended Reading List (located at the link above) to qualify for the extra credit, which you can get from a store, a thrift store, or your local library.

To earn extra credit:

1. Check with your teacher if he or she will accept book reports for extra credit for their course.
2. Read one or more books in your grade level from the Recommended Reading List. Note that each book has a point value assigned to it. Read books totaling 5+ points per quarter for an opportunity to earn extra credit for that quarter.
3. Submit the required form and essay.

If you read a new book and complete the required essay each quarter, the combined increase can be up to 3% for your final grade.