

# Stratograms

A Publication of the Belton #124 School District  
Special Services Department



## Creating an Effective Environment for Study

How do you as parents set-up a home study area that is the most conducive for your child? It needs to be a quiet area, away from distractors (t.v., high traffic areas, etc) that will provide the most effective use of time and effort for your child. Remember, the goal for your child is to study smart, not necessarily to study long. Conditions which contribute to efficient and effective study are:

- A quiet room
- A comfortable temperature
- Adequate light
- Organized desk or table (with supplies)
- A straight, comfortable chair

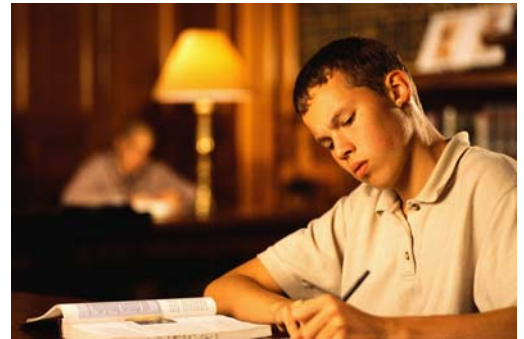
Supplies and materials for "*The Complete Scholar*" include:

### Required Equipment:

- Sharp pencils, working pens, and pencil sharpener
- Highlight pens, markers, colored pencils
- Erasers
- Paper
- Ruler
- Calculator and math tools (teacher will supply list of any needed)
- Dictionary and thesaurus
- Three-ring binder with dividers
- Assignment notebook
- Calendars for time management
- Hole punch
- Filing box or drawer with blank 3x5 cards
- Clock
- Timer

### Optional Equipment:

Computer and printer



A well stocked study area will reduce the amount of time the child will spend gathering supplies to begin. These supplies can be those that were left over from the previous school years, nothing has to be specially purchased. Use what you have around the house.

The **Learner Study System** is a learning strategy that focuses on what skills are necessary for a student to be as strong academically as possible. It focuses on reflective thinking skills and effective study practices.

The steps to the **LEARNER** strategy are:

**L**= Listen in class for details of the assignment. (usually given at the end of the class)

**E**= Examine the material to be studied. (What do you need to take home?)

**A**= Ask "W" and "H" questions (who, what, when, where, why and how)

**R**= Read to find answers to the "W" and "H" questions. (Use SQ3R and Cornell Notes)\*

**N**= Note details that answer the "W" and "H" questions.

**E**= Ease off from one subject before you study another.\*\*

**R**= Review your notes some time after you have studied.\*\*\*

\*SQ3R strategy will be found in the reading strategy newsletter. Cornell Notetaking System (also known as Double Column Notetaking) is found in the note taking strategy newsletter.

\*\*Most people can only concentrate hard for about 15-20 minutes. Take a quick break at 15-20 minute intervals for five minutes and then resume studying. Setting a timer can keep students on task. Take a longer break between subjects (10 minutes). Activities during the break may include eating a snack, exercising, talking to family or friends, listening to music, going outside, or looking through a magazine.

\*\*\*Notes should be reviewed more than one time. Research indicates that the most effective learning occurs when notes are reviewed immediately after studying (within 24 hours of taking the notes) and again two days later.

Students have homework every single night, even if the teacher did not assign any...they can read their notes, review the main topics in their text books, spend 20 minutes reading a book, or spend a few minutes reflecting on what they learned in each class and discussing it with a parent. The most successful students work at their education and have parents who encourage them to do their best. This does not mean all students will receive A's, but it does mean that each student can improve their academic skills and become the best student they can be.



Sources:

A+ Guide to Study

Plano, Texas Strategies Handbook