

## **Work Smarter, Not Harder – Study Environments**

This is one of those times when we know you know this, and you know that we know that you know this, but sometimes it's still good to review what you know, you know?

**Study environments** affect how well students learn and work. We all know students will work best if they can be in a quiet, distraction free environment. The kids may not want to admit this is true to you, but the first step is NO PHONES! As teachers, many of us will admit that we have the same struggle. When you're looking at a stack of papers to grade, your phone looks much more interesting and provides the perfect distraction. If your student seems to be taking a long time to do their work, put their phone in another room. TV and video games are obviously a distraction, as well.

**Supplies** – does your student have a set place with supplies that are easy to access? Pens, pencils, stapler, calculator, coloring utensils? How about extra binder paper?

**Clean it out!** This is a scary suggestion. Be brave. And then, take a big breath and look inside your student's backpack. Those you of who can see the bottom of the backpack, congratulations! Unfortunately, many of you will probably see wadded up papers, gym socks, and... is that a cookie? Time to dump it out and organize!

**Binder Chaos!** And as long as you're forcing the kids to clean, how is their binder looking? Sit them in front of the TV with their binder, a stapler, 3 hole punch and a box for recycling. Put needed papers in the sections where they belong and recycle the rest!

Good luck!