

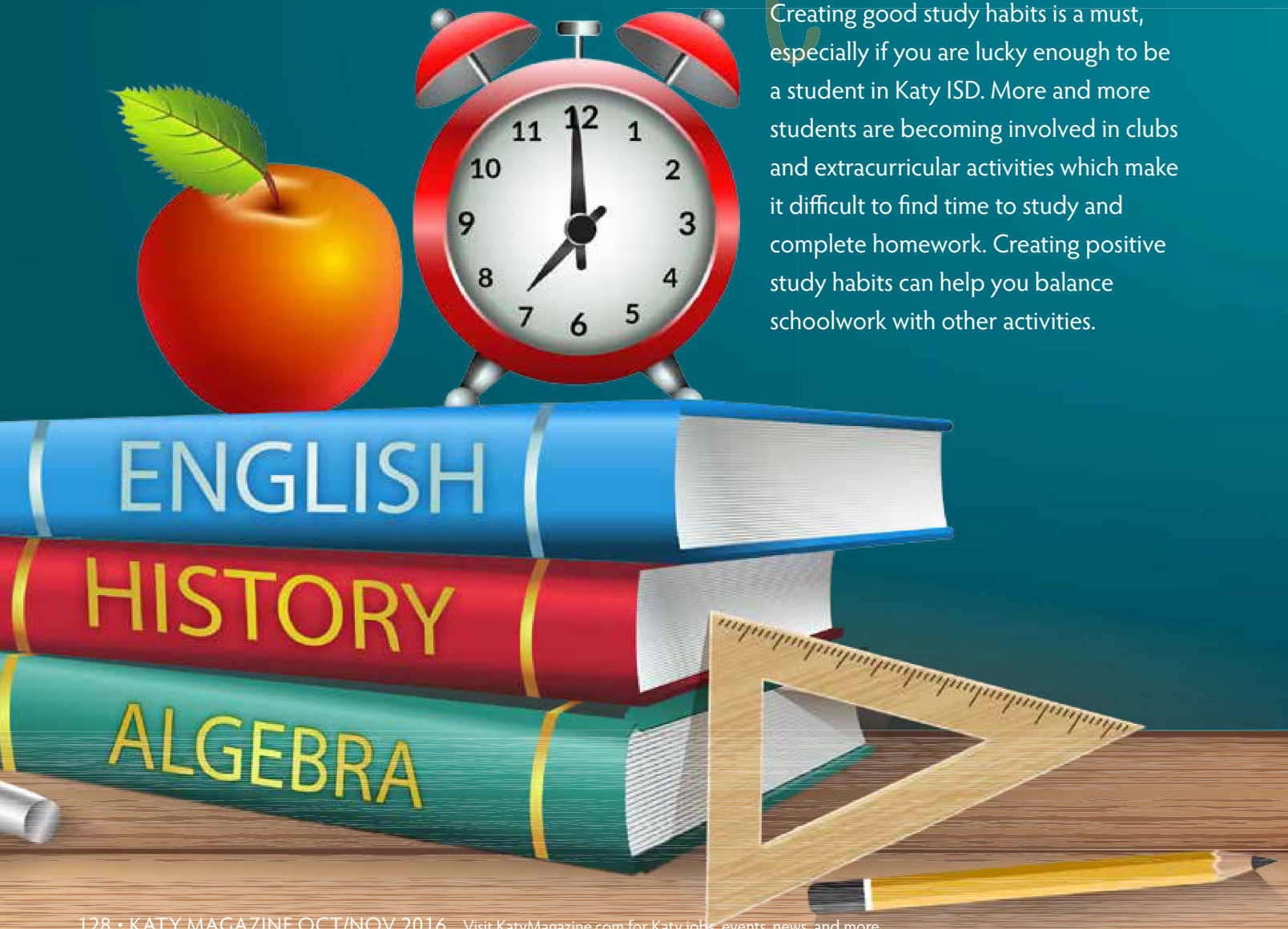
30 Secret Study Tips

From Successful Katy ISD Students

Former and current Katy ISD students offer up their best learning techniques

Compiled by Tanya Erickson

Creating good study habits is a must, especially if you are lucky enough to be a student in Katy ISD. More and more students are becoming involved in clubs and extracurricular activities which make it difficult to find time to study and complete homework. Creating positive study habits can help you balance schoolwork with other activities.



1. Build Up Your Time

“Start reading or studying for 10 to 15 minutes, then add on 10 minutes until you become comfortable studying for at least an hour.” - T.K.

2. Take Breaks

“Don’t try to cram! Study small portions of material at a time and then take a five to 10-minute break. You will retain more information if you break the material down into smaller portions.” - F.L.

3. Reward Yourself

“After studying hard and making an ‘A’ or completing a project, go to a movie with friends or stay home and binge on Netflix.” - K.H.

4. Find a Good Location

“Make sure you are comfortable, but not so comfortable that you fall asleep. Sitting at a desk or table is best because you want to study in the same position you will be in while testing; this helps you remember the material better.” - R.L.

5. Eliminate Distractions

“Turn off the TV and phone. Only listen to music if it truly helps you get into the ‘study zone.’ Also, make sure your family knows you do not want to be disturbed. Put your books and notes from other classes away because even that can be a distraction.” - J.A.

6. Take Good Notes

“Don’t write everything down or highlight the entire book. Only take down the main points and put it in your own words so that you have a better understanding of it. Write down any unfamiliar words and either look them up on your own or ask your teacher to explain them.” - W.S.

7. Review Your Notes

“Do this as soon as possible after class. This way you can fill in any missing details and review the information while it is still fresh in your mind.” - V.W.

8. Use Technology

“When you get home, type up the day’s notes and save them in iCloud, Google Docs, or Evernote. That way you can access them and other devices or in other locations.” - T.E.

9. Form Study Groups

“Make sure you only have students in your group who want to study and are motivated, otherwise your study session will become a social hour. Everyone should be familiar with the material that way you do not have to spend time re-teaching.” - A.P.

10. Stay Organized

“Try to keep your backpack, locker, and folders neat and have a different colored notebook for each class. When you receive handouts from teachers, put them in folders instead of shoving them in your backpack.” - E.H.

11. Prioritize Classes

“Some classes will require more effort than others, such as math and foreign languages. These require daily work and build on material from the day before so keep in mind that you will probably be studying for these classes every night.” - F.F.

12. Determine What Type of Learner You Are

“Auditory learners process and remember information best when they hear it and repeat it. Visual learners process information best when written, drawn, or separated by colors. Kinesthetic learners process information and solve problems when they are given a hands-on activity.” - F.P.

13. You Come First

“You can’t study or concentrate when you are not feeling well. Eat healthy food, sleep, study when you are most alert, exercise, and ask for help when you need it.” - A.C.

14. Don't Procrastinate

“Teachers will give you more than enough notice of an upcoming test or projects so don’t wait until the last minute to study or start your project. Never wait until the night before to type your essay, your printer is bound to break or run out of ink.” - A.M.

15. Use Class Time Wisely

“Some teachers may give you time at the end of the class to start your homework or study on your own. Use this time! This lessens the load of work you will have to do when you get home.” - C.L.

16. Complete Assignments

“Teachers assign homework and in-class activities to help you better understand the topic. Make sure you complete these assignments because they will help you retain the material.” - B.P.

17. Create Acronyms

“Acronyms are when you make a word using the first letter of other words or phrases. For example, HOMES can be used to remember the names of the Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior).” - D.B.

18. Make Up Acrostics

“Acrostics are phrases or poems in which the first letter of each word or line functions as a cue to help you recall the words you are trying to remember. For example, “Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally” is used to remember the order of operations.” - D.E.

19. Songs and Rhymes

“It may sound silly, but inventing your own songs and rhymes will help you remember the information better. Remember ‘I before E except after C?’” - E.P.

20. Draw a Picture

“Draw an image of what you are studying. If it’s new vocabulary, instead of writing a definition, draw it. During your test, mentally refer to your drawing.” - E.W.

21. Keep It Simple

"Students have been using flash cards and graphic organizers for years and there is a reason why - they work! Sometimes just rewriting the information helps your brain recall the material." - S.P.

22. Use Online Resources

"You can find a multitude of websites that offer videos and exercises to help you prepare for a test or when you are struggling in a particular subject. Sometimes watching a YouTube video helps you understand the material because it is presented differently." - T.H.

23. Become the Teacher

"If you can effectively teach something to someone else, then you know you have the material down. If there is any part when you hesitate, that means you are not as confident about that and need to go back and study more." - E.Z.

24. Make Learning Interactive

"Create a private website and record yourself discussing the material. Recording yourself helps to reinforce the information and you can go back and watch them later to review." - W.G.

25. Have Fun with Color

"Use different colored highlighters, markers, or pens in your notes. Each color should have a different category. For example: blue for vocabulary words, purple for important dates, yellow for new information, etc." - S.H.

26. Try Recording Yourself

"Read your notes while you record yourself using a voice recording app and replay them as you clean your room or go for a run." - C.J.

27. Quizlet.com

"You can use this website to create flashcards for any subject. You then play games and race against the clock. If you are competitive, this is a great way to study." - A.L.

28. Commit to Your Study Times

"Make a study schedule for yourself around extracurricular activities and stick to it. Don't let friends tempt you from your schedule by hanging out for 'just 10 more minutes' and don't allow yourself to get on social media sites - those drain time very quickly." - L.S.

29. Ask Questions

"If you get stuck on a question or two while completing a homework assignment, ask your teacher for help the next day. Don't wait until the day of the test to ask the question or for a complete review." - Y.K.

30. Take Control

"Study and learn at your own pace. Don't get upset because your friend knows or understands more than you. Remember that everyone has a different learning style and some excel at different subjects." - H.P. KM



TANYA ERICKSON is a former teacher who loves to be a lifelong student.

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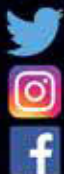
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