

Losing your papers? Losing your mind? There's a SOLUTION!



I've passed along a strategy to my students which I would like to share with parents. I believe getting into the following habit is one solution to the age old problem of lost work. The key is in the **BINDER** – that 3-ring miracle which holds everything under the Sun! The student who follows this advice will not only have his homework at home WHERE he needs it – but will also have his completed homework at school WHEN he needs it.

As homework papers are passed out these should be placed in the homework section of your binder. The homework section is the holding area of all work that still needs to be done by the student. Anything that needs to be tackled or is incomplete can be found in the HOMEWORK section. As work is completed, it should be moved to the top of another section. If this is work that students are responsible for turning in to a teacher, then that work should be moved to the “TURN IN” section of the binder. If completed work is not to be turned in, then it should be placed as the top page of its subject's section.

For example, students get an SOS (Sharpen Our Skills) paper at the beginning of each week. This should initially be placed in the HOMEWORK section and left there until it has been completed. Since this must be turned in, it can be placed in the “TURN IN” section of the binder as soon as the student completes it. Students should get used to looking in their HOMEWORK section to see if there is any incomplete (or “un-begun”) work. They should also get used to looking in their TURN IN section to see if there is something that needs to be turned in. Another weekly paper that is received on Mondays and turned in Fridays is the News Current Quiz.

So what about papers that aren't to be turned in? I don't collect math homework, but I check it each day and expect students to keep it to help them review for their upcoming tests. Math papers should initially be placed in the HOMEWORK section, as this cues the student that there is work to be done. Once completed, the student can move his math homework as the top page in his math section. The most recently completed math homework will always be the first page in the math section. It will be easy for students to find their recent homework papers when reviewing the contents of their math section for a test.

