

## Tips for Choosing Academic Materials

### 1. **Three Hole View Binder with Inside Pockets**

Get at least one binder, depending on the number of classes that you'll be taking and the volume of notes you'll have for each. Look for a 2" to 3" binder with clear view pockets on the outside covers, and storage pockets on the inside.

### 2. **Pocket Dividers**

You can use pocket dividers to separate notes from different classes within the same binder. You can also keep a couple of pockets at the front of your binder for homework and assignments you need to do. Keep completed work you're ready to submit in a designated pocket, and graded assignments in another.

### 3. **Three Hole Punched Ruled Filler Paper**

A better way to prepare for note-taking is to keep your binder stocked with ruled filler paper. When you take notes, write the date and class or topic at the top of your page, and file it chronologically with the other class content.

### 4. **Writing Supplies**

Your pencil case should include ballpoint pens in a variety of colors, one or two highlighters, some quick dry whiteout fluid, a few pencils, a sharpener and an eraser.

### 5. **Sticky Notes**

Small sticky notes work well as subject dividers in binders and as markers for assigned readings, homework, and pages you want to ask questions about. Larger sticky notes are handy for writing notes to teachers, classmates, and even yourself.

### 6. **Calendar/ Planner**

If you don't already use a portable planner / calendar, now is the time to start. You don't have to spend a lot to get an effective system. Look for a slim planner / calendar that contains an address book, monthly planner pages, and a week on a page. Another great option is a PDA (or Personal Data Assistant). This is portable and stores much more information and the data can be transferred onto computers.

### 7. **School Bag**

Keep all of your student basics in a portable office: a carefully chosen school bag. If you think you'll be taking a laptop to school, get a computer bag. If you expect to be carrying a lot of heavy texts or materials, choose a sturdy bag on wheels. If you're going to be walking or using public transit to get to school, a traditional backpack works well.