BINDER SYSTEM:

- A sturdy 2", three-ring binder **or** canvas/fabric binder with a zipper around the edges
- Insert dividers **or** twin pocket folders (hole punched) for each class.
  I do not recommend using the accordion folder inside.
- A reasonable amount of looseleaf paper (do not overload the binder with paper)
- Optional: three-hole punch designed to fit into the three-ring binder, pencil pouch

Pros: Everything is located one place. If you take it home with you every night, you will never "forget" papers at school.

Cons: Many large binders do not fit inside school lockers and/or backpacks. You will have to punch holes in most of your papers before inserting them—often resulting in thinking "I'll do it later" & cramming papers in anywhere.

FOLDER SYSTEM:

- A twin pocket folder for each class (each a different color)
- Color coded notebooks for each class (to match folders) **OR** a reasonable amount of looseleaf paper in each folder
- Cover each textbook with a brown paper bag
  - Clearly label & color code textbook covers to match folders.
  - Be Creative! Use markers or colorful duct tape to decorate book covers—make the colors meaningful to you. *Examples*: green for science because it reminds you of nature OR red for social studies because that is the actual color of the textbook

Pros: You are more likely to keep papers in the correct folders. Prevents you from "cramming" papers into binder because you are in a rush and don't have time to hole punch them.

Cons: More folders to carry/manage. You will need to remember which folders you need to take home each day.

COMBINATION SYSTEM:

- Purchase a fabric/canvas zipper binder that has pockets on either side in addition to the 3 ring section.
- Purchase portfolio/pocket folders for each class. Keep all folders in the large pocket section of the binder.
- You can clip your looseleaf paper and/or student planner into the 3 ring section **OR** remove the entire 3 ring insert and just use the zipper binder to contain your folders.

Decisions, Decisions:

One of these systems is not necessarily better than the others. Think about yourself as a student and choose a system that fits your needs.

Get your house HOMEWORK READY !

- Choose a consistent homework location in your home. It should:
    - include a table, desk, solid writing surface.
    - have all necessary school supplies in close proximity.
    - be located near people who are willing and able to assist with homework.
    - not be on a bed, couch, or in front of a television.

- Choose a consistent homework time. It should:
    - allow for a small "brain break" and/or snack after school.
    - allow for times when homework takes longer than expected.
    - not be in the late evening or near bedtime.
    - include a set time to complete homework on the weekends.

- Keep a list of useful websites handy (or bookmark them on your computer).
    - online textbook links, usernames, passwords
    - teacher webpage links
    - helpful tools—online encyclopedia, Brain Pop tutorials, online math tutorials, etc.

- Create a routine for identifying, completing, and reviewing homework.
    - Review student planner for homework.
    - Prioritize work based on difficulty and/or due date.
    - Place completed work in appropriate folders.
    - Review student planner again and cross off completed work.