

Guide for Parents



Dear Parents, Guardians and Tutors,

We are honored your student's school or teacher has adopted Organized Binder. This guide is designed to introduce you to Organized Binder and give you tips on how to best support your student in classes that have implemented the system. If you desire further information you can visit organized binder.com.

Sincerely.

Mitch Weathers
Founder and Creator

#### Overview

Organized Binder is a system that supports student learning through an organized and predictable classroom routine. Using this system, students learn how to set academic goals, manage their time, maintain a personal calendar, get and stay organized, develop effective studying habits, and more. Students are more successful at accessing and mastering the Common Core Content Standards and objectives when they get organized and stay organized. In addition, our system helps teachers save class time, reduce classroom management issues, model time management, teach study skills, and give students practice at thinking metacognitively on a daily basis.

### **The System**

Organized Binder is designed to be simple to use. It is composed of seven pages and a syllabus—pages labeled A-H. Below is an overview of the System Pages of Organized Binder.







B-Weekly Lifeline



C-Agenda



D-Binder Check



E-Syllabus



F-Academic Toolkit



G-Table of Contents



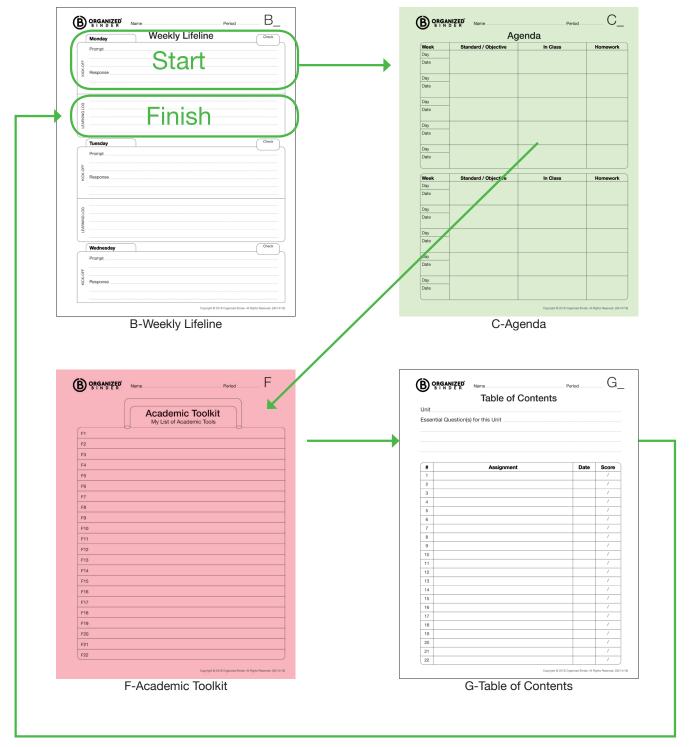
H-Passes



# Pages used daily: Pages B, C, F, and G

Organized Binder ritualizes classroom routines; making the best use of every class minute. Each class period the teacher begins with a Kick-Off Prompt on the Weekly Lifeline (Page B). Next, the Agenda (Page C) for the day is completed. Third, the day's assingments are recorded in the Table of Contents (Page G). Finally, the lesson circles back to the Weekly Lifeline, where the student completes the Learning Log section. On occasion the teacher will reference the Academic Toolkit (Page F).

# Sequence of pages used daily:





#### Page B: Weekly Lifeline

The Weekly Lifeline consists of the Kick-Off prompt and the Learning Log, which are used to begin and end class. Usually teachers use the Kick-Off prompt to review the previous class's content standards or objectives. If you want to know exactly what your student is learning in class, read the Kick-Off prompts.

The Learning Log is how class is concluded with Organized Binder. Each day in class your student will reflect on what was learned from the lesson and/or what was confusing. Students are required to practice using grammatically correct, complete sentences in English (academic English) when writing Learning Logs. Often, this level of English language practice is only done in English or support classes. Students gain this language practice in all subjects implementing Organized Binder.

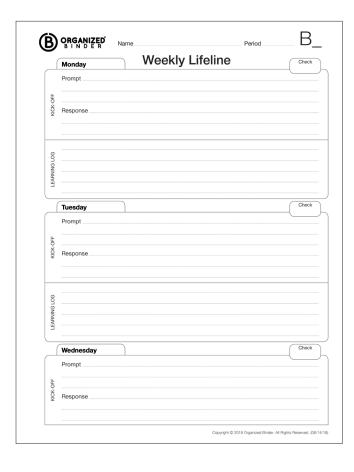
Students have a Weekly Lifeline for each week of the semester (B1, B2, B3, etc).

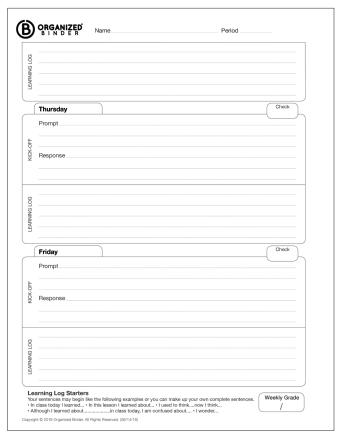
#### How you can support:

- Ask your student about the Kick-Off prompt(s) they worked on in class.
- Ask them to summarize the content of what they *learned* that day in class, not just what they *did* in class.
- Read your student's Learning Logs; on a daily basis if you can!

#### **Skills Practiced:**

Metacognition, reflection, organizing materials, study skills, creating study resources, belonging to an academic community.







# Page C: Agenda

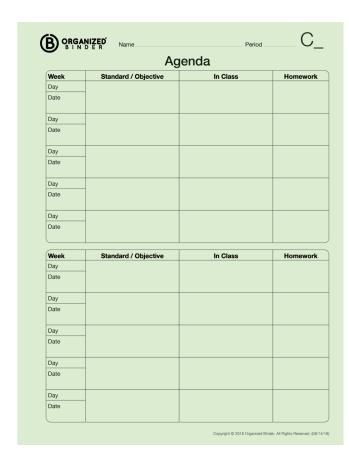
The Agenda is used to identify the content standards or objectives covered in class each day. It also provides a snapshot of how those will be taught, and whether or not there is homework. In addition, the Agenda is used to teach the skill of using a calendar. Each new Agenda page is represented by C1, C2, C3, etc.

#### How you can support:

- Review the Agenda with your student, being sure to ask if they have homework and when it is due.
- Look at what was done in class and ask your student to summarize what they learned or what
  confused them from those activities/assignments. Avoid having your student tell you "what they
  did in class." Ask your student about any important assignments or assessments coming up in
  the future.

# Skills practiced:

Time and task management, maintaining a calendar, organizing materials, self-discipline, balancing school and other demands



Agenda							
Week	Standard / Objective	In Class	Homework				
Day							
Date							
Day							
Date							
Day							
Date							
Day							
Date							
Day							
Date							
Week	Standard / Objective	In Class	Homework				
Day							
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#### **Page G: Table of Contents**

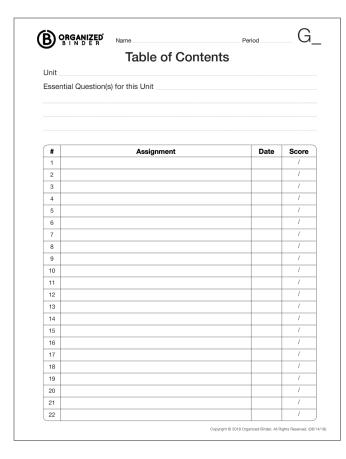
On the Table of Contents, the organizing of in-class assignments, as well as homework assignments, mirrors the teacher's unit lesson planning. All work in a unit is listed in chronological order on the Table of Contents. The assignment number is written by the student in the upper right-hand corner of each assignment (see picture below). Regardless of the "type" of assignment (notes, worksheets, essays, quizzes, lab report, homework, class work, etc.), they are all listed in order on the Table of Contents. Students keep track of their grade by recording their scores in the "score" column. At the end of each unit the assignments are stapled in order behind the Table of Contents to create a unit packet. At the start of the next unit, students receive a new Table of Contents for the new unit. Each unit is represented by G1, G2, G3, etc. In other words, your student will have every single assignment they created throughout the entire year neatly organized in standards-aligned, thematic unit packets. These unit packets provide an excellent study tool for unit and final exams.

# **How You Can Support:**

- Check to see that your student is updating their Table of Contents each day in class.
- Check that all work has an assignment number and is in chronological or reverse-chronological order behind the Table of Contents.
- If there are any papers or assignments in the pockets of your student's binder ask them to write the assignment number on the paper and file it behind the Table of Contents.

#### **Skills Practiced:**

Organization, study preparation, balancing school and other demands, self-discipline



	Assignment	Date	Score
3	•		/
			/
5			/
3			1
,			/
3			/
)			/
)			/
			/
2			/
3			/
			/
5			/
3			/
,			/
3			/
)			/
)			/
			/
2			/
3			/
			/
5			/
3			/
,			/
3			/
)			/
)			/



#### Page F: Academic Toolkit\*

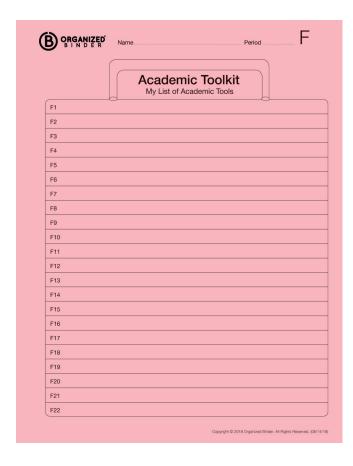
The Academic Toolkit is the appendix in your student's Organized Binder. Any assignments or work that must be referenced or accessible throughout the year is cataloged and stored in the Academic Toolkit. To differentiate the assignments in the Academic Toolkit from those in the Table of Contents, students label assignments with F1, F2, F3, etc., see picture below.

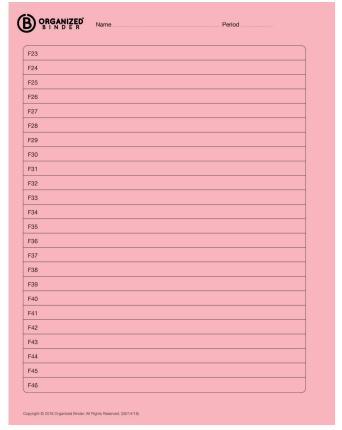
#### **How You Can Support:**

- Check to see that your student is updating their Academic Toolkit when it is updated in class. (This
  page may not be updated each day in class like the Table of Contents.)
- Check that all work behind the Academic Toolkit is properly labeled with F1, F2, F3, etc.
- If there are any papers or assignments in the pockets of your student's binder ask them if any of it belongs in the Academic Toolkit, if it does have them label it properly and file it where it belongs.

#### **Skills Practiced:**

Organization, creating studying resources





<sup>\*</sup> may not be used daily



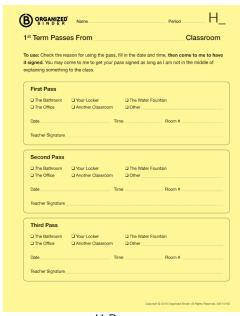
# Pages Used Periodically in Class: A, H, D, and E

There are four pages in Organized Binder that are not used daily in class: Goals (Page A), Passes (Page H), Binder Check Schedule (Page D), and the class Syllabus (Page E). These pages are used monthly, quarterly and throughout the year.

# Cuarterly (B) CRGANIZED Name Period A My Goal in 1\* Term Goal Daily Task. Dod you accomplish your 1\* Term Goal? J Yes or J No Why? 2\* Term Goal Sub-Goal Daily Task

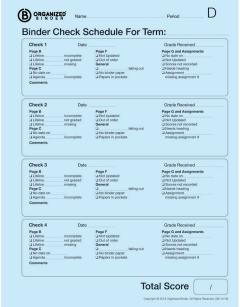
A-Goals

# **Monthly**



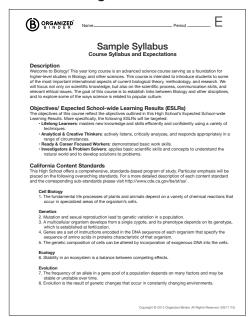
H-Passes

#### **Throughout the Term**



D-Binder Check

# Throughout the Year



E-Syllabus



#### Page A: Goals

The first page in Organized Binder is the Goals page. It is the color gold because we want students to "go for the gold!" Each quarter or marking period, classes pause to reflect upon their academic goals. Student goals consist of three components: the goal, sub-goal, and daily task. The sub-goal is what students have identified as a way to accomplish their goal. For example, if a student's goal is, "To pass the class", their sub-goal might be, "To complete all of their homework." The daily task is the most important component of the goal. It is what students identify as the way they can accomplish their sub-goal. For example, if a student's sub-goal is to complete all of their homework, their daily task might identify when and where they will complete the work, "At 4:00 p.m. when I get home from school I will sit down at the dining room table and do my homework."

# **How You Can Support:**

- Read your student's goals and discuss it with them.
- Ask your student if they are doing their "daily task" throughout each quarter or marking period!

#### **Skills Practiced:**

Goal setting, self-regulated learning, identifying success strategies







#### Page H: Passes

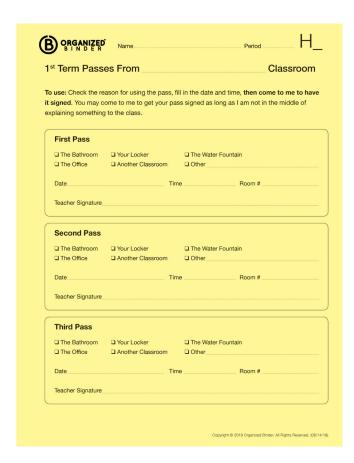
Students are given 3 passes per semester, or marking period in Organized Binder. These passes are not emergency school passes or nurse passes. They are for students to use as needed. Because they only receive three, they learn to practice self-regulation. Any passes that are unused at the end of the semester or marking period may be worth extra credit.

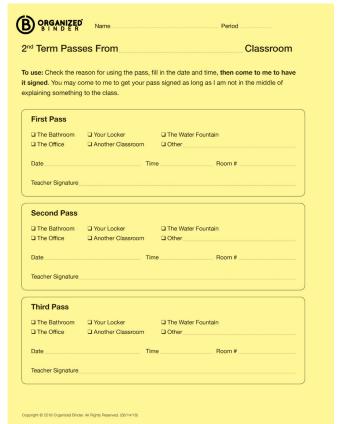
#### **How You Can Support:**

 Check in with your student to determine if they are saving their passes for when they will really need them or extra credit. It is common for some students to use all three of their passes at the beginning of the semester.

# **Skills Practiced:**

Self-regulation.







#### Page D: Binder Check Schedule

Each month (on average) teachers grade students' binders according to a pre-arranged Binder Check Schedule. The dates of the binder checks are set early in the semester or marking period and recorded on the Agenda (Page C) and Page D. Teachers maintain a Class Example Binder for each subject they teach. Students have access to this example binder if they need to update their personal binder.

Students are required to keep their binder organized. A properly "organized binder" looks exactly like the Class Example Binder. On the date of the binder check, if the student's binder looks like the sample binder, they receive full credit. If there is anything that needs to be updated in their binder, they have one week to fix those mistakes and turn their binder back in to the teacher for a binder recheck. The goal is for every student to receive full credit on each binder check!

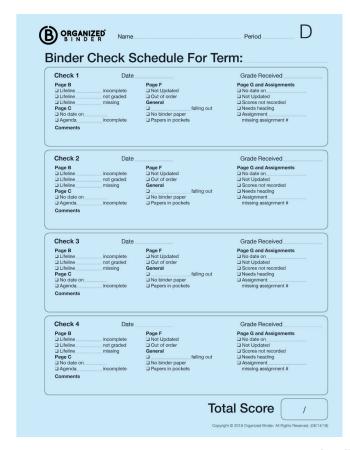
Many teachers will use Organized Binder's Peer/Self Binder Check the day before or day of the binder check in class (see page 15). Utilizing this page, students trade binders with a classmate and use the Peer/Self Binder Check to identify everything that needs to be updated. Then students receive their binder back to fix the mistakes before turning their binder into the teacher for the official check.

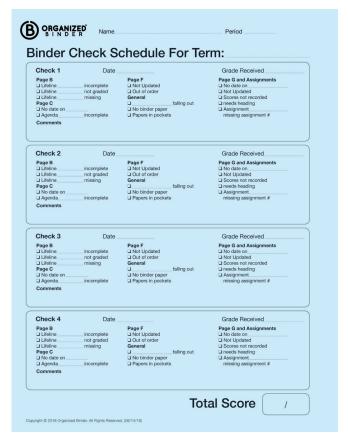
#### **How You Can Support:**

- Check in with your student to learn when each binder check is scheduled. The day or week before
  each binder check sit down with your student and review each page/section of Organized Binder.
- Please use the Peer/Self Binder Check in the back of this guide to actually check your student's binder the week before or day before the teacher's binder check.

#### **Skills Practiced:**

Accountability, organization, tenacity, self-discipline.







#### Page E: Syllabus

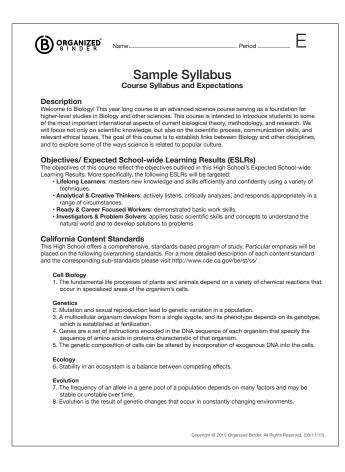
The Syllabus is provided by your student's teacher. It is not officially an Organized Page. The class syllabus is critical as it outlines the course, gives expectations, grading guidelines, teacher contact information, etc. We encourage all teachers at all grade levels to give a syllabus because it familiarizes students with what they will encounter in college.

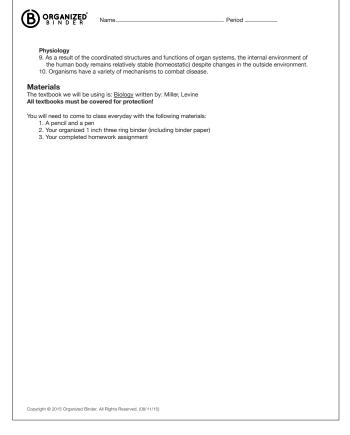
#### **How You Can Support:**

- Check in with your student to determine if they are receiving a syllabus for each course. Read over the course requirements and expectations with your student.
- Be sure your student's syllabus has an "E" in the upper right-hand corner of the front page of the syllabus and is inserted in the correct location in their Organized Binder.

#### **Skills Practiced:**

Organization












# Peer/Self Binder Check

#### **Directions:**

- 1. Check your student's binder. If anything needs to be fixed, write it on this form.
- 2. Pages should be in the following order. Circle "Yes" or "No" and write any comments to help your student fix their binder.
- 3. Provide your student with the completed Binder Check form so they can fix everything to be ready for the next Binder Check.

Binder owner
Peer checker

Contents	Missing?	Out of Order?	Torn Holes?	Heading missing or incomplete (first and last name, period, date, assignment #)	Comments
A	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	Yes No	
B (B1, B2, B3)	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	
C (C1, C2, C3)	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	
D	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	Yes No	
Е	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	Yes No	
F	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	N/A	
F (F1, F2, F3)	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	N/A	
G	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	Yes No	
Assignments (#1, #2, #3)	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	
Н	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	Yes No	
Binder paper (at least 5 pages)	Yes No	N/A	Yes No	N/A	

#### **General comments:**