

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this unit is for students to develop skills and habits to use in future education, careers, and lifelong learning. Students will participate in active learning and creative problem-solving. They will also discuss personal responsibility and personal goals.



STRATEGIES

- Participate and ask questions.
- Take risks and be brave.
- Learn from failure.
- Think outside the box.
- Honor your commitments.
- Be consistent and respect others' time.
- Make a list of people who inspire you.
- Dream about your future.
- Develop little habits that lead to big goals.

LEARNING SUMMARY

- Students differentiated between active and passive learning.
- Students designed a curiosity project about one of their interests.
- Students designed a product to creatively solve a problem.
- Students analyzed the process for creating art and other products.
- Students identified examples of responsible and dependable people.
- Students set goals to improve in their responsibilities at home or school.
- Students explored real-world examples of failure leading to success.
- Students visualized who they want to be and what they want their life to look like.

LESSON CONTENT

Students who find joy in the learning process and focus less on assignments and grades are more likely to develop into lifelong learners. Active learners distinguish themselves from passive learners by fully participating in the process (e.g., get hands-on, ask questions, and think outside the box) rather than sitting back and waiting for the teacher to deliver information to them. This type of engagement allows students to creatively solve problems in school and in life. In simple terms, active learners and lifelong learners take responsibility for their education and growth. Demonstrating responsibility can lead to increased trust, reliance, and responsibilities from adults. Students who choose to “jump into” learning can find more satisfaction than if they are compelled to learn.

Setting goals and establishing small habits can lead to more learning and personal growth because it creates intention and direction for students’ efforts. Focusing more on personal achievement (mastery goals) rather than comparing achievement with others (performance goals) can inspire better attitudes for lifelong learning.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING

- Brainstorm a few professions that you are interested in learning about. With the help of trusted adults, find opportunities to job shadow people in your community to see the day-to-day responsibilities of people in these professions. As you visit them, ask lots of questions and offer to participate, if it is safe and possible to do so.
- Share your goals with family members. Brainstorm action steps that might require some early planning (e.g., college admissions, saving money, applying for scholarships). Create a timeline or calendar for these action steps that lead to your greater goal. Follow up on your progress regularly.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What do you want to study or learn after high school? Why?
- How can you use creativity to solve more problems in your life?
- Who is someone that you can always depend on? Why?
- What are 3 attributes that you hope people see in you in the future?