



The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond

Donna Goldberg , Jennifer Zwiebel

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A must-read for parents, *The Organized Student* contains hands-on strategies for teaching your disorganized child how to organize for success in middle school and high school, with special tips for kids with ADD/ADHD and learning disorders.

The overstuffed backpack, the missing homework, the unused planner, the test he didn't know about. Sound familiar? When the disorganized child meets the departmentalized structure of middle school, everything can fall apart. Even the academically successful child will start to falter if she misses deadlines, loses textbooks, or can't get to class on time.

This practical book is full of hands-on strategies for helping parents identify and teach organizational skills. Educational consultant Donna Goldberg has developed these methods by working with hundreds of students and in this book she provides:

- Assessments to gather information about your child's learning style, study habits, and school requirements
- Guidelines for taming that overstuffed binder and keeping it under control
- PACK—a four-step plan for purging and reassembling a backpack or locker
- Instructions for organizing an at-home work space for the child who studies at a desk or the child who studies all over the house
- Ways to help your child graduate from telling time to managing time
- Special tips for kids with learning disabilities and kids who have two homes...and more

The Organized Student is a must for any parent who has heard the words, "I can't find my homework!"

The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond Details

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From Reader Review The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond for online ebook

Jennifer says

This book took me over six months to read cover-to-cover, but I think that it's probably better to read and refer to as needed rather than to sit down and read all at once. It's an invaluable resource to support a child who is supporting and understanding a disorganized child.

Lillian Angelovic says

A good guide for parents of kids with executive function difficulties. Not as applicable to my three online-schooled kids (no papers or books to haul back and forth from school, and workspace & desk supplies are quite different, plus all our planning is already set up online) but there were some good insights and it gave me ideas for new things to try.

Gloria says

I read this (quickly, granted) because Mr. Harris recommended it. Also, because, I believe, FMS will be recommending it to parents in the Magnet Program.

Overall, a good book, with helpful suggestions both for organizing and working with your child as s/he develops his/her own systems. I did think the reference to Vail and her thoughts on time interesting as well.

Rebecca Grace says

This book came highly recommended by my kids' developmental pediatrician, and I bought it reluctantly, expecting yet another unrealistic book promising miraculous transformations through elaborate sticker charts and token-and-reward systems. I was pleasantly surprised!

Donna Goldberg, who has worked professionally with hundreds of disorganized middle and high school students on a one-on-one basis, shares a wealth of insight into what it's like to be a student today and the variety of challenges kids face in managing paper, space, and time. The book is sprinkled with assessments to help you understand your child's school day, questions I never thought to ask but that immediately helped us to identify and solve some of the problems my son was having. Questions like, Where is your locker in relation to your classes? How often do you get to go to your locker throughout the day? How much time do you have between classes, and is there one teacher who always lets you out late?

Goldberg stresses that there are many different methods of organization, but the one that works best for your child will be the one that she or he chooses and sets up rather than something external that parents or

teachers impose upon the child. Consequently, there are lots of options and variations for each area addressed in the book.

I read through this book off and on over a period of several months to understand the whole philosophy and process prior to attempting to implement anything, highlighting and flagging as I went along. Then I went back and reread highlighted sections to create an action plan for addressing these issues with my sons in the order suggested by the author. So far I've helped my 5th grader to reorganize his backpack and streamline his class binders (he doesn't have a locker yet) and the next step with him will be to set up his "portable office" for doing school work at home. With my older son, who has been lugging around a 50 pound backpack, I will have to tread carefully and ease him into streamlining his paper flow before we even think about his desk, but I think he may even like to read a few chapters of this book on his own to help him understand why we are doing this and "what's in it for him."

I highly recommend this book to any parents of middle school or high school students, but especially for those who are disorganized and/or who suffer from ADHD related executive functioning weaknesses, but with this caveat: You and your child will need to invest some significant time into implementing the strategies in this book in order to gain anything from it. If you're expecting to read the book and then instantly see miracles, you're going to be disappointed.

Shannon says

Great little book. It's always fun to learn more about organization.

Sheila Callahan says

I made it to page 140, ironically, stopping at the chapter I probably need the most: Understanding Time Management--The Basics. I only ended there because the library needs the book back. The Organized Student is useful for those of us who are organizationally challenged. I wish my parents had read it and taught me some of the precepts, but then again, the book only came out seven years ago. In the spirit that it's never too late and with a nod to the fact that not everyone is born or sees the benefits to being organized, this is a useful text that can help students and others succeed.

Alexis Tanguay says

Even though it is meant to help students in Elementary and Middle School certain things can be taken for the college student such as the planner section as well as the notebook and book bag areas. I skimmed through the book for the sections that could help me but I think thank it would help students in the classroom as well.

Mary Case says

I am an adult 37-year-old college student and purchased this book for myself. I am very excited to try the suggestions for time management and DeskSet up. I have been reading organization books over the years. I

find the more I read the easier it is to become more organized. This is one of the better books that I've read on organization. I would recommend this book. A lot of organization books I find great tidbits that I use. This book I intend to follow step-by-step for time management and Desk set up specifically for school. I just want to give someone who is just starting out some inspiration. Don't give up if you feel discouraged because you are not doing everything the book recommends try one thing that you know you'd like to do and commit to doing that. I'm the kind of person who needs to do something over and over again in order for it to sink in. It takes months and sometimes years of trying different things in order to decide what works well. Also things change and your needs change so you'll need to change in order to accommodate. Don't give up and don't expect perfection.

Vincent Harris says

08.17.08

Finished the book a few weeks ago and have decided to promote the book to parents and try to implement the systems with my niece who is entering 9th grade this year.

This book is geared to parents, and it is not the kind of book that you just give to a child and tell him or her to read it. Rather, it will take trial and error, patience, and persistence to implement. The systems and techniques described by the authors will not be easy as teen and tween behaviors are difficult to modify. Nonetheless, organizing takes effort and we must start somewhere. The lack of organizational skills, in my opinion, contributes to epidemic proportions of poor performance.

It is not enough for a parent (or a teacher) to tell a child to get organized. Parents and teachers have to teach a child the ways of being organized.

I will set up a GoodReads discussion group for parents who choose to take on the organizational challenges set forth in the book.

I am currently reading this book with the intent to draw heavily on it for next year. I am considering strongly urging parents to read the book, and we will work towards shared knowledge (students, parents, & teacher) and participation in the systems of organization presented in the book.

Giselle says

Practical tools to utilize when teaching children organization, time management, long-term assignment planning and more. I plan to refer back to this book to fine tune strategies and systems I've put in place with my children as they become more emotionally and physically capable.

Shawn Miles says

If you have children pre fifth grade I highly recommend this book. I wish I would have read it when my kids

were younger. I didn't read it until they were in high school. This is a great how to help the student who just can't pull it together and the mom/dad who is struggling to figure it out.

Tiffany says

If you have a child who is disorganized at school, this book WILL help! The difference in my child is fantastic--it also helps you as a parent (especially if you are innately organized or somewhat so) to realize that organization is a skill to be learned, but must make sense to the person doing the organizing. It doesn't have to make sense to everyone else. I found this so simple, yet so novel!

Res says

She has a program, and she's pretty much selling it: This is the one way to organize a desk, this is the one way to organize a backpack, etc. There are some options for personalizing based on learning style, but no acknowledgement that maybe a tackle box isn't the best solution, so here are some ways to explore other solutions.

I did like the stress throughout on not just setting up systems but learning skills; this could be generalized to all sorts of people who aren't students.

Cat. says

I can recommend this book, based on the fact that I have a very disorganized kid in my house (who rather takes after his mother, in fact). The general idea of the book is that parents have to help kids, who are being asked to keep it together much younger than ever before. At the same time parents need to step up, they need to understand that whatever Fabulous System they use to keep themselves organized may not work for their kid. Let the kids explore how to set things up, since they know their school schedule and classroom needs best.

I needed to hear this. My son needed to figure this out too. We've implemented several of the things Goldberg recommends, and I'm sure I'll be referring to this book a lot over the years. I'll probably just buy a copy so I can have it at hand as necessary.

Alto2 says

Some kids can't get organized no matter what systems you put in place. Thought this book might help #1 son, but no.
