

# Making a Decision

 $(\Box \Box \Box)$  Deciding if online learning is the right learning choice is very important. Research indicates there are some characteristics that contribute significantly to a student's ability to be successful in online learning programs.

#### **Successful Online Students**

## GOOD TIME MANAGEMENT

Can create and maintain a study schedule throughout the semester without face-to-face interaction with a teacher.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY HABITS

Can study and complete assignments without direct supervision and maintain selfdiscipline to stick to a schedule.

## ACADEMIC READINESS

Have the basic reading, writing, mathematics and computer literacy skills to succeed.

While these are helpful for success, the most critical factor is a supportive family and school.

## EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Can ask for help, make contact with other students and the instructor online, and describe problems they have with learning materials using email, texting and/or telephone.

### **SELF-MOTIVATION**

Have a strong desire to learn skills, acquire knowledge and fulfill assignments in online courses because of an educational goal.

## TECHNOLOGICALLY PREPARED

Are able to use online technology to assist with learning and identify various file formats, including .doc, .xls, .pdf, .jpg.

# Planning ahead is key to success in all learning, including online learning. Online learning can contribute to more independence in students. Here are some questions to consider together with your family that are above and beyond the usual types of supports. Use this page to talk together with your

family about how best you can manage challenges and be set up for success.

#### Is your home work area designed for success?

• Do you have an organized place for textbooks, binders, and supplies?

#### Is your desktop computer or laptop set up for success?

- Do you have reliable high speed internet? What is your backup plan if it is interrupted?
- Do you have a word processor like Microsoft Word or Google Docs? Can you open PDFs?
- If the computer will be shared, is there a folder or desktop profile set up specifically for the student's use?
- Do you have a secure file or app for important passwords?

#### What routines will you need to establish in your week?

- When is it time to begin school work during the day? How will you structure your school week?
- How will you plan for important deadlines in the course?
- What time are synchronous classes? Are they online or in person?
- Is there a place you can work without noise and distraction if needed?
- What daily physical activity can you schedule to avoid sitting for long periods?

#### How will you get help with your learning?

- What arrangements can you make to ensure communication between the teacher and the caregiver?
- Is there a mentor that will help you during the day? A school counsellor, family friend, caregiver, grandparent or older sibling?

#### For the family caregiver(s):

- How will you monitor to ensure learning is successfully being completed each week?
- Do you have the username and password for the login to the courses, if under 18?
- Have you introduced yourself to your student's teacher through email or phone call?
- Are there opportunities for the student to take advantage of social opportunities that the school may offer, e.g., field trips, on-site activities, if interested?

