

HOW TO SUCCEED IN HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHERS:- These come in a great variety ranging, as do their pupils, from excellent to poor. Accept each on his or her own terms and try to work for each as objectively as possible. You may expect the same treatment from your teachers as you hand out.

STUDIES:- Keep these up to date on a day-to-day, scheduled basis, a system that will ensure an acceptable level of achievement. In all subjects you will do well with a little effort; others will require a great deal. Therefore, adapt your schedule to suit your own needs and avoid becoming an examination machine. Incidentally, working consistently to such a plan is not necessarily easy and the measure of your success in this area is a good indication of how mature you really are.

PARENTS:- Although you will be permitted increasing independence, your parents naturally reserve the right to exercise their authority when they feel it necessary. Their decisions are usually the right ones since they are taking the "long view", while yours are probably focused on the immediate future and therefore not as valid.

FRIENDS:- Choose carefully, of course, but don't be "cliquey" since cliques tend to breed intolerance, snobbery and mediocrity. Seek to increase your friendships but not at the expense of your principles and your integrity.

PRINCIPLES:- You already know the difference between right and wrong in terms you should have little trouble distinguishing two such opposites as black and white. Your main problem will be choosing between the look-alike alternatives of subtle shades of gray. Just being awake to the fact that a choice is involved is a long step in the right direction.

GOALS:- Set these high but see that they are well-defined and always in view. Then work steadily towards them and in so doing you will gain both satisfaction and confidence. P.S. Don't rest on the merit of your achievements. "Get on with it"

ADAPTABILITY:- "Survival of the fittest" is one of Darwin's laws which you can do so well to apply to your own life. "Fitness" in this context means the ability to adapt to new situations. Human beings no longer perish if they do not adapt but they are eliminated in a sense that we all understand.

INDIVIDUALITY:- This is your most precious possession and yet so many people (because they are insecure) exchange it for conformity. We have to conform to some extent in order to function efficiently but this does not mean becoming a robot who thinks and acts mechanically according to the whims of the group. The degree to which you conform is also a measure of your maturity.

Good luck and best wishes,