

Successful Students Share Their Secret for Online Learning

Schroon Lake Central School

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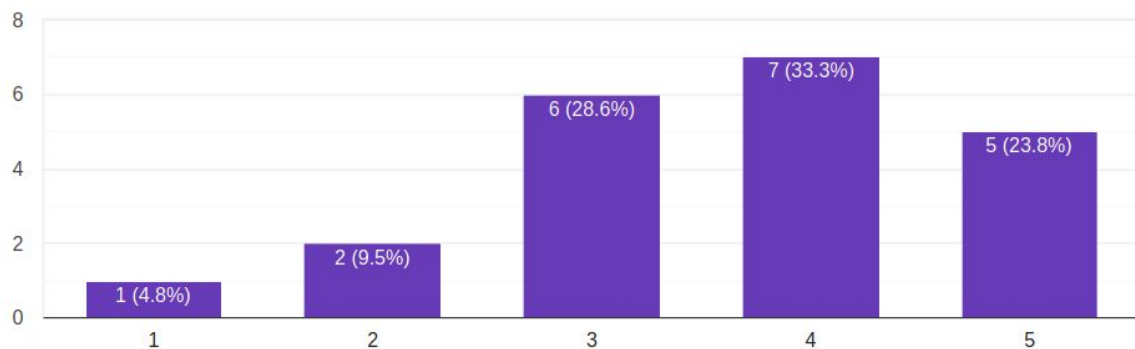
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Twenty-one respondents to a survey asking successful online learners to report on the "secrets" of their success collectively present a profile of the student who will likely do well in asynchronous distance learning conditions. These students are very self-directed, seldom needing much parent intervention or supervision. Most like working online because there are fewer distractions than in school and they can work on their own schedules and at their own pace. These students have a special place set aside for doing school work and mostly do their school work in one sitting rather than sporadically through the day. These students are not necessarily very academic-oriented in temperament and may not even prefer online learning because they miss their friends and teachers. When asked to advise their peers, common suggestions include ideas like planning out the working and break or recreation time, keeping checklists, and self-motivation strategies.

Students were asked to rate a series of statements on a scale from 1 "Not at all" to 5 "Very much so". Respondents were students in my social studies classes in grades six, eight, nine and ten.

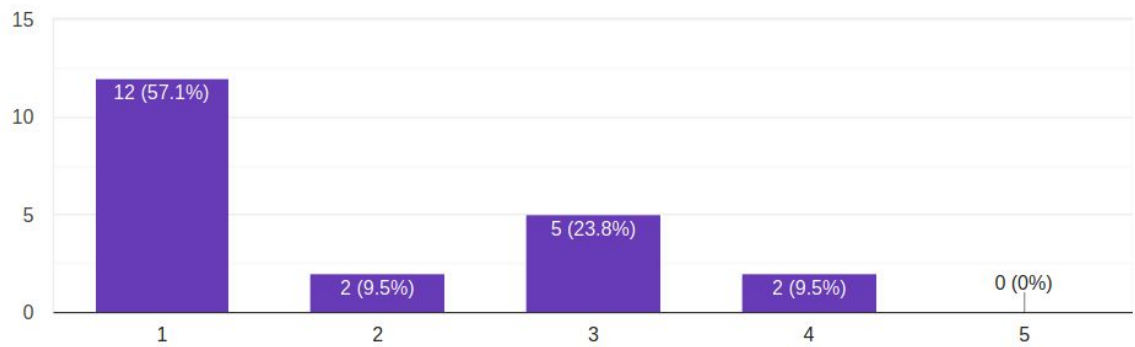
I work well at home because I have fewer distractions during my work time than in the school building.

21 responses



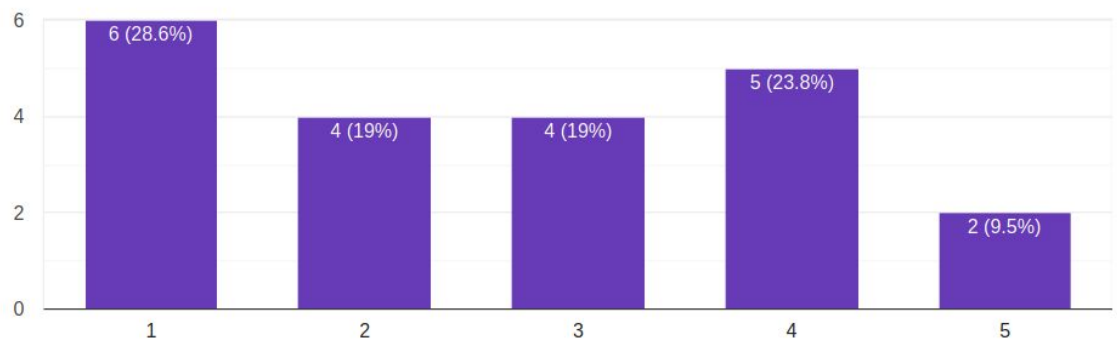
I work well at home because I have a parent or tutor watching over me while I work.

21 responses



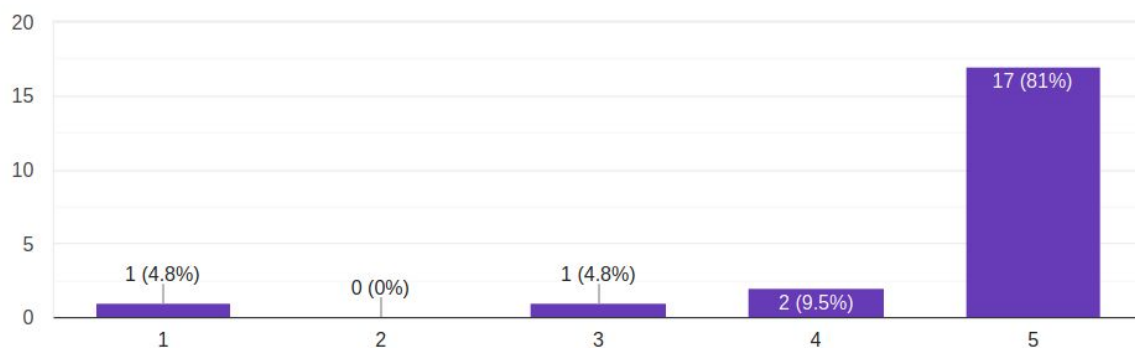
I work well at home because my parent(s) enforce household rules about my school working times.

21 responses



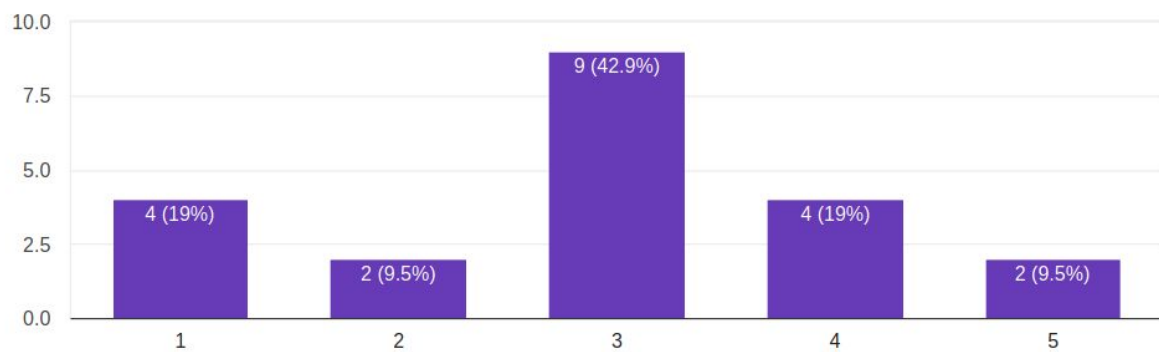
I work well at home because I can do school work at times that work best for me.

21 responses



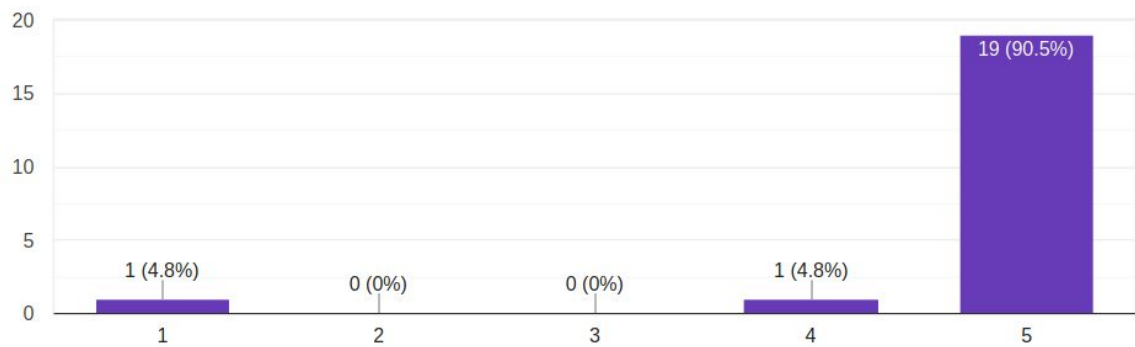
I am doing well on remote learning because the assignments are generally shorter than in school.

21 responses



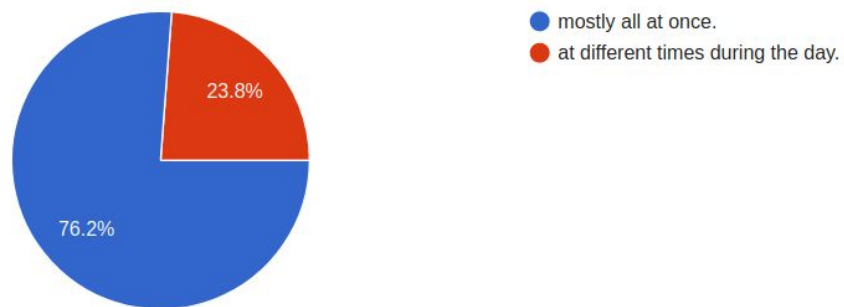
I like working at my own pace.

21 responses



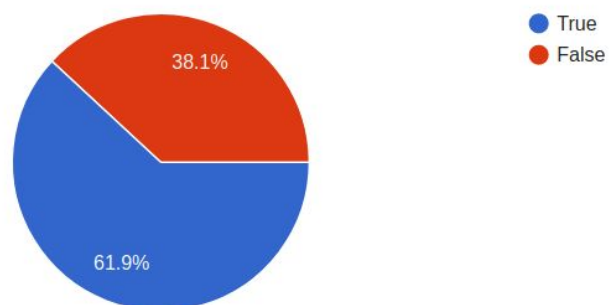
Most school days, I do all my school work ...

21 responses



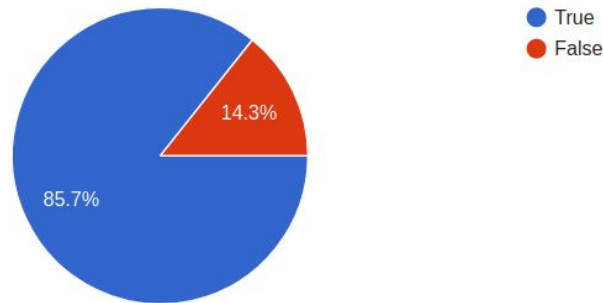
I have a special place set aside in the house where I do school work.

21 responses



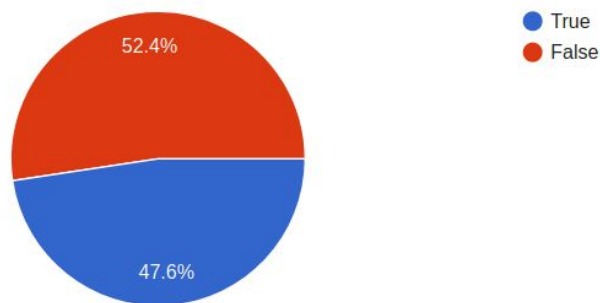
I do school work at the same time each day.

21 responses



I just like doing academic work. It suits me.

21 responses



Please add anything else you think might explain your success in online learning. Perhaps some advice we could give to other students?

14 of 21 respondents accepted my invitation to make suggestions for their peers about their secrets for online success. Their comments are as follows.

- I think that it easier to get all of your work done during the same time because then that way you can have the whole afternoon to do whatever you want.
- As the Nike logo says "Just Do It"! I try not to put stuff off, however I wish it will be over soon so we can have summer and do other productive things with my family.
- i have a system that i follow and i check all classes my email old emails at least 19 times a day
- I try to give myself some time in the morning to wake up and have some time to myself, like an hour, then I start my day and work until lunch most times which I then take another hour or two to rest, finally I work until I am finished with little breaks and end most of the time right before dinner. I would say just try to get it done early then you

could look forward to having the rest of the day and if you get ahead then at the end of the week you could possibly have Friday off, like I do. Also, just try and not get distracted and if you need to tell your siblings/parents/guardians you need quiet, my mom has learned that she can't talk to me when I am doing school.

- Something that motivates me is when I can take a 5-10 minute break between each subject. I use my RC car for this. While it is charging (it usually takes 45 minutes to charge) I do some work, and when it is done (it has a 10 minute run time) I go out and drive it.
- I find that it helps to have a list of what I have to do and when they are due. This helps me to prioritize and not stress out as much about my work. I also tend to do my work in the morning. This way I have time to do my work and I can get it all done early. If I forget about an assignment, this also allows me to do it before it is due.
- I just think that after I do all my work I can go out and do anything I want the rest of the day so I use that to motivate me
- Having parental involvement keeps me on task or I wouldn't stay on task. My parents also check power school regularly. I do struggle because I'm not getting as much assistance as I would during school.
- Make sure to hunker down and just do your schoolwork. Try to follow pretty much the same schedule every day and not get into a mindset of "I have all day to finish", because chances are you're just gonna keep on putting it off.
- Well about the distractions. The main distraction I have at home and not school is food. Now that I am at home there are lots of food breaks.
- I think a schedule is really important. Not only does it limit the amount of distractions in the day, but allows you to get through your work without missing anything or falling behind. I was home schooled before I came here, and sometimes it's nice to set apart time where you can watch a show or play a game or something, that way you don't feel as inclined to take a break in the middle of your work. That's all the advice I got! :)
- I'm getting better grades doing the online learning, but I don't really like it because I'm not getting the same interactions with teachers and friends that I can get when I'm physically in school.
- For me, I do a few hours of school work in the morning and then a few hours of it in the afternoon. I always take about an hour or two for a break in between those times. That break is very nice, and relaxing. I either go for a walk, or try to do another activity that is not school related. I find if I do not take that break, I get too overwhelmed. Questions 2 and 3: My parents check up on me, to see how I am doing. But they do not watch over me. Also, my parents trust that I am getting all the school work in on time, so they do not enforce too many rules, because I stay on top of it myself.