

Preparing for Your Instructor's Initial Phone Call During the First Week of Your Gifted LearningLinks Course

During the first week of each Gifted LearningLinks session, instructors will initiate contact with students, typically by means of a phone call, in order to introduce themselves, answer any questions you or your parents may have about your Gifted LearningLinks course, and establish a communication framework for the exchange of assignments, projects, tests, and other materials.

In order to prepare for your instructor's call, it is highly recommended that you:

- Log into Blackboard and **access your course site** by clicking on the name of the course in which you are currently enrolled.
- **Browse through the menu items** on the left-hand side of the course site, so that you are familiar with the set-up of the course site and know what to find where.
- Read through the **Staff Information** page, **Course Syllabus**, and **any introductory materials** or **Course Information** pages. (It is highly recommended that you **print out your instructor's contact information and the course syllabus** and keep them next to your computer)
- **Jot down any questions that arise** as you complete the items above.

When your instructor calls, be prepared to:

- Ask for **specific details about how the class will operate**.
- Discuss **your expectations** for the course, your reasons for taking the course, your background in the subject area, and any special concerns you may have.
- Ask your instructor about his/her expectations of you, in particular:
 - **how they would prefer to be contacted if you have any questions,**
 - **how many times per week you will be expected to log into the course site,**
 - **how many hours per week you will be expected to spend on coursework,**
 - **how much interaction you can expect to have with other students in the course,**
 - **whether and/or when real-time sessions will be held,** and
 - **how your coursework will be evaluated.**
- If you are taking an honors or AP® course and intend to work through the course material at an **accelerated pace**, please discuss your plans with your instructor and **ask the instructor to help you establish an appropriate timeline for completing the course in that timeframe**.
- Ask any additional questions you may have about the course site or the introductory information posted there, including **when, where and how to begin your coursework**.