

What is an ISN?

Interactive Student Notebook. An ISN is a notebook designated for specific, teacher-assigned notes for a certain class. For our purposes, we use a composition book for each ISN (instead of a spiral-bound notebook) since pre-printed activities are designed to fit a composition book. The goal for ISNs is to house the most essential notes for a class. It is easy to feel overwhelmed when juggling textbooks, notebooks, binders, lab notebooks, apps, etc., especially if it is not your strongest subject. The notes that go in the ISN are meant to help you synthesize the most important concepts from class each week.

What goes in the ISN?

Only what your teacher assigns as ISN work. I know this sounds super picky, but remember that the goal of the ISN is to give you a one-stop-shop for the most important concepts. This will help you study for tests, and it can also be a big help in college. For example, you may be asked to copy down a math formula and a few sample problems, but you wouldn't want to do all of your math homework in the ISN (that should be done on a separate sheet of paper). Examples of things you might be asked to include in your ISN would be definitions of key terms, formulas, grammar charts, graphic organizers, sample problems, teacher-led notes, strategies, etc. Sometimes you will be copying information directly into your ISN, and other times there will be pre-printed handouts to be glued into your ISN, so always listen carefully to the directions for each page.

Should I bring my ISN to class?

YES!!! Every. Single. Week! This is important so you don't wind up having to recopy notes into your ISN later or confused about the directions for how to cut/glue something onto a certain page.

What if I miss a day?

Your ISN work will be in your student folder. First - don't worry. I will simply place any handouts in your student folder for you to get the next day you are back in class. Ask a classmate if you can see his or her ISN to catch up on any pages you may have missed. The best idea is to take pictures of a classmate's ISN pages when possible, so you can fill in any missing pages outside of class (as long as the pictures don't show any answers to work you should be doing on your own).

Will I get a grade for my ISN?

YES. We will have "ISN checks" that will count for a grade. They may be announced or unannounced, so you should ALWAYS have your ISN in class and up-to-date to ensure a fantastic ISN grade. This is also a great place to earn some extra credit! While I will tell you what should be on each page of your ISN, you are in charge of making it "yours." Let your creativity shine - add color, extra notes, highlights, stickers, washi tape, etc. I believe that the more time you spend with your notes and the more fun you make them, the more likely you are to actually use them to study, and while I can't promise that using washi tape will earn you extra credit...let's just say, it couldn't hurt. :)