Baldivis Secondary College

The Interactive Notebook (INB)

Purpose

The purpose of the Interactive Notebook is to help students learn and remember important curriculum concepts.

Interactive Notebooks

The Interactive Notebook uses the right and left brain hemispheres to help students sort, categorise and be creative with the content they are learning.

Setting Up the Interactive Notebook

1. The first four pages are left blank for the Title and the Table of contents. Starting on the fifth page, the student numbers all the pages on the left side with EVEN numbers and on the right side are ODD numbers.

2. Students design a Title page.

3. Students insert a Table of Contents.

4. The Interactive Notebook should contain RIGHT PAGE (Input) and LEFT PAGE (Output).
Questions to Help Students Understand What Should Go On the Left Side

1. What’s my purpose for reading this?
2. What do I already know about the topic?
3. What’s the big picture here?
4. What’s the author going to say next?
5. What are the “expert questions”?
6. What questions does this information raise for me?
7. What information is important here?
8. How can I paraphrase and summarize this information?
9. How can I organize this information?
10. How can I picture this information?
11. How does this information fit in with what I already know?
12. What’s my hook for remembering this information?

Why Use Interactive Notebooks?

- Interactive Notebooks engage students in all aspects of their learning.
- Interactive Notebooks increase student accountability for their learning.
- Interactive Notebooks promote student ownership for their learning.
- Interactive Notebooks promote high levels of organisation in student learning.
- Interactive Notebooks reinforce critical literacy and numeracy skill development.
- Interactive Notebooks enable curriculum differentiation and the promotion of independent learners.
- Interactive Notebooks across curriculum areas promotes a consistent and understood expectation for student learning.
- Interactive Notebooks provide an effective monitoring tool for student learning on a daily basis.
- Interactive Notebooks promote continual review of learning to maximise assessment preparedness.
- Interactive Notebooks allow students to take their depth of learning beyond the classroom.
- Interactive Notebooks develop and consolidate learning methods and routines that are critical for success now and in the student’s future studies.
What Does It Look Like?

The left page shows understanding of information. Working with the information or input from the right side, the student processes this information in their own, creative way.

The student should use colour on the left side. This helps the brain learn. Student should highlight or underline with coloured pencil the important information.

The student may choose to process information through:
- Brainstorming
- Biography posters
- Mind mapping
- Cartoons/doodles
- Poetry and song lyrics
- Concept maps
- Venn diagrams
- Sketches
- Flow chart or timeline
- Answering prompts
- Diagramming
- Charts

The right page is for writing down factual information. The information that should go on the right side of the notebook would include:
- Worksheets stapled or glued in the notebook
- Vocabulary words
- Curriculum concept information such as definitions or facts
- Text book notes
- Film or video notes
- Guest speaker notes/questions
- Notebook prompt
- Inquiry method
- Direct answers to questions from a source

This information may be set up using the Cornell Note-taking Way or a different organisational template.