



MileStone Messenger

November 2016

****SIGN UP TODAY**** – In an effort to keep parents informed about school closings, field trips and other pertinent events at school, MileStone Academy uses REMIND, an app that allows the school to text information directly to you and your child’s cell phone device. Please be sure to sign up. If you haven’t received an invitation directly to your phone just follow these directions:

TEXT: @msahigh to the number 81010

****MileStone Academy follows Abington School District for weather related closings & delays***



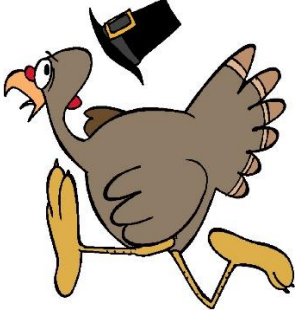
Social Studies News

The month of November saw the election of a new President of the United States. In civics class, students explored the process by which one voted and participated in a mock election by casting a ballot. Prior to November, students studied the debates among various candidates. This allowed them to formulate opinions on whose debate tactics were most effective leading to their personal opinion about who “won” a particular debate. The objectives of the lesson was to impart to students the importance of becoming informed citizens about the issues that impact them so that in the future they can become active themselves in the democratic process.

- Mr. Ryan

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY: November 30, 1982 – Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” is released worldwide. The former Jackson 5 singer releases what will be the best-selling album of all time, “Thriller”. Of the Album’s nine tracks, seven will reach the top 10 in the Billboard Hot 100 list. “Thriller” will be among the first albums to use music videos as a marketing tool.

(SOURCE: www.On-This-Day.com)



On Tuesday Nov. 22, 2016 students and staff came together for our annual feast of Thanksgiving. Our founder, Kathy Hunt, baked a delicious turkey and staff graciously supplied a variety of side dishes to enjoy whilst we broke bread together in order to celebrate the national holiday. Notably, Mrs. Goodman guided students in a cooking lesson of her family's tasty stuffing recipe. Students spent the morning dicing fresh vegetables and breaking bread into pieces. The lesson culminated with the combination of the ingredients into a baking tin and into the oven it went! See below for Mrs. Goodman's recipe . . .

Better than Stone Soup is MileStone Stuffing

Thanksgiving Stuffing

At MileStone Academy we give thanks for so many things all year. The following students prepared Thanksgiving stuffing for our Feast. Here is the recipe.

Bread

3 loaves day-old bread
Tear into small pieces

Place in large baking tin.

Cut into small pieces:

Onions
Carrots
Celery
Turnip
Parsnips

Sautee until tender in:

extra virgin olive oil

(Optional: shred ingredients in food processor)

Add:

Raisins
Sun-dried tomatoes
Dates

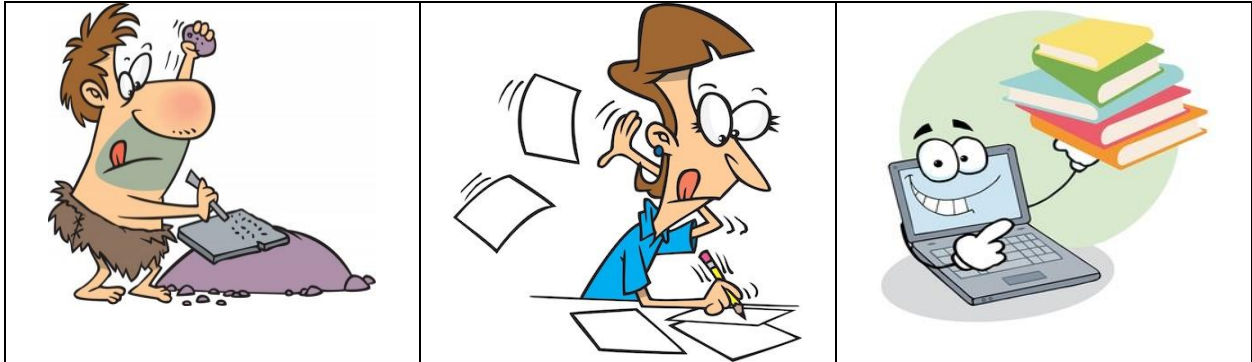
Add:

Pinch of salt
Dash of pepper
½ tsp. Marjoram

Combine all ingredients.
Bake at 375* for 45 minutes.
Remove from oven to cool.

Drizzle with honey.

How to Take Notes



Although you can learn just from sitting in class and listening to the information being presented, taking notes will enable you to review the information later on.

Listen, Listen and Listen

Many students become so absorbed in taking notes while they are in class or lecture that they fail to listen. Failing to listen means that you're so busy taking notes of every word that is being said that you fail to absorb and learn the information. Distinguishing when you need to take down notes and when you don't is an important part of note taking.

Prepare to Take Notes Before the Class Starts

Preparing yourself before the class begins can enable you to reduce the time which is spent rushing through notes once the class has begun. Reviewing class outlines, handouts, books, and/or website information can help you to become familiar with the material that is going to be covered in class.

Avoid Distractions While Taking Notes

There are many forms of distractions that can affect you while you are taking notes. Electronic gadgets as well as the actions of those around you can often affect your ability to take notes and absorb information during class. One of the best ways to avoid distractions while taking notes is to sit at the front of the class. Sitting at the front of the class gives you the best line of sight to learn the information that is being given and reduces the mix-ups that can come when you are in the back of the classroom. You'll also be in a great location to ask questions that you may have about the material. If there is no time during class, take note of your questions and save them to ask after class.

Create an Outline for the Notes and Use Headings as Reminders

It is important that you learn to recognize keywords. Keywords are often found on the introduction of the outline of the class lecture or course. Use these keywords as the heading for each section of your notes to ensure that your notes remain organized. This can make it easy to create study aids as well as being easy to locate specific information that you are looking for when it comes time to take a test or to review a term or concept that you were unfamiliar with.

Don't Rush

Rushing means that you are entering information quickly and therefore it can sometimes lead to difficult to understand notes. Rather than rushing through the notes, learn to focus on the key points and pieces of information that are being presented to you and use this information to create a basis for your notes.

If the instructor is moving to a new topic, but you're still taking notes on the previous topic, don't be afraid to leave the section blank and use the information in the textbook or other sources to complete the notes once the lecture has been finished.

Organize Your Notes

Being organized while taking the notes can save hours trying to scour through pages of information to determine which of the pieces of information are going to be on a test or an examination. Leave room within the notes to indicate which sections of the notes are going to be on the exam. One of the most common and effective ways to organize the notes that are being taken is to use headings, then sub-headings.

Compare Notes with a Classmate

When taking notes, it can be helpful to compare the notes that are being taken with a friend. Comparing notes with a classmate can reduce the missing items. Choose a partner that is taking the class or sessions seriously in order to gain the best results from the process.

Don't be Afraid to Use an Audio Recorder

Using an audio recorder can be an effective way to maintain notes and ensure that you haven't missed any important points within the lecture, especially if you are an auditory learner. The audio recorder enables you to play back the lecture and the information that has been presented and allows you to easily take notes and focus on the auditory cues which are provided by the instructor.

Don't Waste Time with Information that You Already Know

Rather than going in depth, writing down information that you are already familiar with, you can make short notes to convey that you are familiar with the topic. There is no need to spend valuable time within the lecture rehashing the information through notes.

Summarize

Summarize the key points in a few words instead of long sentences/paragraphs. Shortened notes enable you to get as much information as possible while taking down the notes. This will save you time writing words that aren't required in order to get the concept of the point across.

How to Make Note Taking Easier

Make use of abbreviations. There are many standard abbreviations that can be used while taking notes. Making use of these abbreviations can be an effective way to be able to save time to pay attention while you are taking down notes. Use arrows and other elements while taking notes, like under lining and highlighting or headings to organize the notes and ensure that you are able to create a focus for important points that are being displayed. This can help you to review important information come testing time and help you to determine which information is required. Creating your own system can be an effective way to ensure that you are able to sufficiently organize the notes.

(SOURCE: www.TestTakingTips.com)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- DEC 23rd Begin Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
- DEC 26th – JAN 2nd Winter Break Con't NO SCHOOL
 - JAN 3rd SCHOOL RESUMES

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- A Brief Note from the Head of School -

Dear Families,

The holiday season is upon us and I want to take this opportunity to send you heartfelt wishes for a wonderful holiday season and happy New Year. MileStone Academy students continue their quest for academic growth and have had a myriad of experiences here on campus to provide just that. Our mission continues to be to be focused on developing and delivering an excellent social and emotional environment for students with language based learning needs to thrive. As we grow in population, so will our program and offerings. I am honored to work in such an amazing environment and appreciate your trust, ideas, and assistance as we embark on this journey.

Along with the joy of celebration this time of year brings, it may also bring with it stress. Mahatma Gandhi famously mused, "There is more to life than increasing its speed." My hope for you is that you are able to enjoy the season. Take this time to recharge your spirit and make more space for the people and causes that should take priority in your life. Here at MileStone Academy that will always be our students.

On behalf of the entire staff at MileStone Academy, we wish you and yours a fantastic holiday season with family and loved ones. As educationalists, we are honored to work with your children and pleased by the many special talents they bring to the campus each day, which make up the exceptional culture of our unique school. We are truly thankful to be working with such amazing children and compassionate parents.

Mr. DuPell – Head of School

