



MARCH 2017

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

Greetings,

I suspect you've been there. You're out to a restaurant and instead of enjoying your dinner companion's company, you are checking your work email or looking on Facebook. You're driving to work, sitting at a light and think nothing of sending out a Tweet. Even worse, you're attending a work meeting and check your phone for a text you receive and your boss catches you. The truth is technology can be quite addicting, specifically cell phones.

I imagine at this point you know where this is going. MileStone Academy has a cell phone policy in place by which student's check-in their phones when they check-out their laptops. Unfortunately, students have begun insisting that they have left their phones at home only later to have teachers "discover" students texting, listening to music, face-timing others, etc.



While I am empathetic of the desire for our students to stay connected, the truth is that cell phones, unless specifically used as part of lesson a teacher has planned, only serve as a distraction and impede your child from learning. To be clear, the policy is not meant to be punitive, but you've entrusted the school to educate your child.

So, what are we looking for? The simple answer is your support. Remind your child to honor the school's cell phone policy. Tell them that texting, talking, or searching your phone during class is NOT acceptable. The expectation is that if a teacher or administrator asks a student to turn in their phone, they do it without resistance or a temper tantrum. It will most certainly be returned at the end of the day.

As always, your continued support is acknowledged and appreciated.

Todd DuPell

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15 th	Professional Development No School for Students
March 31	Marking Period ends
April 6	Report Card Distribution ½ day for students
April 6	Parent Teacher Conferences
April 7 -17	Spring Break
May 29	School Closed for Memorial Day
June 9	Last Day of School
June 12	Report Cards Mailed Home

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

We have been celebrating the good things about our community. Students, staff and administration have been letting us know when someone does *Something Good*. We have heard about students sharing their lunch and teachers helping a student when they had a lousy day. Check out our Facebook Page to see our acts of kindness.



STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE

The Student Council conducted a can food drive to benefit the Seeds of Hope Food Pantry. We



collected over 100 items to help fill the shelves of the food pantry. Imani Murray and Kim Jenkins represented the student council

along with Mr. Ryan and Ms. Gladish to make the delivery to the Food Pantry. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the food drive especially Shamyrah Mills who contributed a significant amount of items towards this effort.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Civics class is currently covering the Constitution. Later this month students will be writing a bill and presenting it to a mock Congress. By having a mock Congress students will begin to understand the importance of the three branches of government having to work together to accomplish their goals. The Congress must approve or reject the bill, and when the bill comes to the Executive's desk the president will either accept the bill or veto the bill.

We are looking forward to videotaping these sessions. Stay tuned for more information.



COUNSELOR CORNER

There has been a lot going on at MileStone Academy this month...

The girls have been participating in a weekly group discussing a variety of topics. Some of the topics included making healthy choices, body image, communication and relationships. Meeting in small groups helps strengthen friendships between students and builds trust and respect within the school community. Beginning in the middle of February, this group meeting will be offered to the boys in the school.

I have enjoyed getting to know many parents both in person and by phone. I feel very strongly that parental involvement in a student's education is directly related to their success in school. Because of that, I encourage you all to reach out to me so that we can work together, with your children, to help build strong relationships and successful students.

Lisa Gladish
School Counselor

SCIENCE

In Physics class, we have been learning about sound waves. As a demonstration, Mr. Natkins



brought in a music program, Ableton Live, and used it to show what sound waves look like when they are

recorded. The students We analyzed the frequency, pitch, and amplitude of these waves, and observed what happens when different audio "effects" are placed on the sound waves. The unit culminated in the creation of a song, and hopefully inspired students to further pursue music in their lives.

Continued Page 3

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Everybody loves Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. C. is in the building. If it is nice, meaning no rain the kids head outside for gym to play football or basketball. Occasionally they are joined by the staff for a faculty vs students game.

Then there is Bean Bag competition between Shamyrah and Mr. C.



At the time of this article they are tied. They are looking for a team to challenge them.



DID YOU KNOW?

Summer Bridge Program

We are planning a summer bridge program. We will be sending information out soon. Space will be limited.

Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment letters will be going out this month. It is important for parents to complete the information and return it on time so we can plan for next year.

Class Pets!

We have three new members in our science classroom! They don't pay tuition, but they do bring a lot of joy. They are three albino mice, and while some students have given them names, they are so similar in appearance that it is quite hard to tell them apart. Students have helped to build their habitat, regularly clean their home, and build toys for them to play with and chew on. The mice have proved to be valuable examples in Biology class, as we have been learning about genetics and characteristics of mammals. They have become so popular that there have even been requests to get more mice!

Art Class!

Board Member Rebecca Zaslow has volunteered to offer art to our students. Students have been exploring photographer and will learn to manipulate their photos them with one of the photo software programs.

STAY INFORMED

Make sure you have all the up to date news about Milestone Academy.

- **EMAIL** If you are not receiving emails from us an email info@milestone-academy.org
- **FACEBOOK** follow us on Facebook
- **REMIN** text messaging notifies you of school closings and other emergencies.

STUDENT CORNER

Helping the Homeless

By Kimberly Jenkins

I like to help families who are homeless, or anyone who is homeless. Every morning I would wake up around 5 o'clock, and make food and put little snacks in a bag. I would put the food I made and snacks in the car, and drive to a homeless shelter. I would buy winter gear, new underwear and socks. I would make sure every child is healthy and make them happy. I would try to get homeless people off the streets and into a shelter, so they can keep warm and dry.



BOOK REVIEW

By Pete Brockman Math Teacher

The Five Elements of Effective Thinking

by Edward Burger & Michael Starbird

Here are some of the key components:

Learn things deeply from the bottom.

Become a lifelong student This first habit is to understand things deeply and thoroughly. Be honest and accurate about what you know and don't know. *Be willing and open to fill gaps in your understanding.*

Embrace the failure and learn from mistakes.

Use the power of failure. Success is not a straight road. Failure gives us a chance to better understand aspects of a subject and retry for more knowledge. *We need to think every opportunity as an intellectual mountain to climb.*

Create and ask questions.

If a student does not have any questions either

1. The student understood completely.
2. The student was not interested in the class at all.

CAN YOU HELP US?

School Store

As you know we don't have a cafeteria. Students are supposed to bring their lunches and any other food they need during the day. They are teenagers and bringing lunch doesn't always happen. The administrative staff has been buying items like Raman noodles, crackers and other items. We do charge a nominal price but if a student does not have money we get an IOU from them. We would really appreciate any donations you can supply for us to keep in stock.

Vision Boards

Students are creating vision boards to begin think about their future and to begin planning on how to make their dreams a reality. The boards help us determine careers of interest so we can bring in guest speakers to discuss careers.

Asking questions is a good habit.

No matter what your stage in life, you are going to develop strengths you do not yet have, and when you do, opportunities will open that you have not yet dreamed of.

Follow the flow of ideas.

Every idea comes from something. So invent and build around the existing ideas.

Observe history carefully! Predict what will be the future!

Life is under construction always. Don't stop learning.

The true joy lies in learning new things and keeping our thought process warmed up.

For more information check out:

<https://medium.com/aryas-books/my-thoughts-on-the-five-elements-of-effective-thinking-by-edward-burger-and-michael-starbird-e28a64e8cffb#.uzcmj0yp1>

