

SEA Newsletter

September 2019

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Studying: The Tips and Tricks to Success

By: *Aria Jacinto*

Welcome back Wolfpack! As we head into September, the homework load tends to get heavier and our schedules become more hectic, so it's important to start the semester strong! The best way to improve your academic success is by creating good study habits. Here are some tips that can help you amp up your study game this year:

1. **Find a good study spot.** Memorizing formulas isn't the easiest when your little sibling is watching *My Little Pony* on max volume right next to you. A quiet, distraction-free environment will help you focus on the task at hand.
2. **Take breaks.** Remember to get up, stretch, drink water, and eat a snack every so often. Your brain will thank you.
3. **Study with friends.** Poring over textbooks by yourself can get quite monotonous. Set up study dates with your group to prepare for upcoming tests! You can meet up at someone's house, the library, or Starbucks to get in some collaborative studying.
4. **Utilize online resources.** Apps like Quizlet are great study tools. If you're unsure about a topic, then websites like Khan Academy and YouTube are here to help!
5. **Don't cram.** Start studying well in advance for tests and exams. Let's face it, if it's 2 am the night before a test and you're cracking open your biology textbook for the first time, you're better off just going to bed. Avoid this by studying a little every day!

Highlights This Month!

SEA Float Building

Interested in helping build our program's Hoco float? Check out float building in H12 afterschool. Our Remind has more information about construction dates. All contributions are appreciated!

T-shirt Design Challenge

Are you an undiscovered artist? Are you tired of our current SEA shirts? Fear not, we have a challenge for you! Design a shirt that you believe represents our program the best!



Simply email your designs to rmoehnke@tusd.net by September 30. Don't miss out; your design could be on this year's academy T-shirt!

SEA Student Officers

Philip Ha – President
Charles Baker – Vice President
Seemani Dash – Vice President
Dalton Young – Vice President

SEA Staff and their Classrooms

Mr. Moehnke – H6
Ms. Bynum – H12
Ms. Shade – H6/MS21
Ms. Stewart – MS26
Ms. Baker – H11
Ms. Haut – MS24
Ms. Sandford – H4
Ms. Banchemo - Admin
Mr. Dell' Aringa – MS13
Ms. Evans – MS27



Teacher Tea

By: Philip Ha

Get ready for a Q&A with your very own SEA teachers!

This edition: Mr. Moehnke (M) and Mrs. Bynum (B)!

Q: Do you have any pets?

B: I do. I have four cats: Pip, Hopper, Maddie, and Rascal.

M: I have a dog. It's a long-haired chihuahua named Missy.

Q: What is your most memorable experience in teaching over the years?

B: It's not one moment, but being in the academy and being there at the very beginning of it. We were in this program called Kid Sat through UC San Diego, and when we got done with that, they said "Hey let's start an academy!" and I said "I'm not a science person," and they said "It'll be fine! You'll like it!" and I have. That's why I'm here, instead of Turlock.

M: I came in after they had started Kid Sat, so I was in at the tail-end of it. I wasn't in it at the start like Mrs. Bynum was.

M: The most memorable moments for me are the moments when students get it; the moments when they go "OHH!" Those are the moments I really enjoy.

Q: Do you have advice for any of the 4 classes?

B: I mean it's kind of the same for everyone. Outside of academics, have some fun, and focus on your friends and family.

M: Just from an academy point of view, take advantage of what the academy has to offer. We have a lot of good things, but not a lot of people take advantage of them: the student activities and field trips and stuff like that. Also, don't let senioritis get to you before May.

Q: What is your ideal vacation and who would you take with you?

B: Actually, I would love to go by myself. When I retire, I want to have some sort of small RV and a dog, and I'm just going to drive around the country by myself. It's just so that if I wanted to do something, nobody's like "Oh, I don't want to do that." I get to do what I want to do. I know that sounds selfish, but that's my goal.

M: I think I'd like to go to Germany. Actually, if I was going to go, I'd probably take my brother, and maybe a couple of our close friends from a long time ago, because we always have a good time when we're together.

Q: What do you both like to do in your free time?

**general laughter **

M&B: What free time?

B: I like to read or play little games on my phone just to pass the time, or binge something on Netflix.

M: I like to read. I just finished a book over the summer by Orson Scott Card, the author of Ender's Game. He's recently written novels about the first two Formic Wars, and Ender's Game was about the third one, and so I've been reading his novels on the first two. Some other things I like to do are woodworking and gardening, stuff like that, although I don't get to do it much because I don't have much free time.

Q: When you were in high school, did you know what major you would pursue? Did you ever think about being a teacher?

B: I did not plan to be a teacher. In junior high and high school, I think I wanted to write and be a journalist. I actually started as a Journalism major at Modesto Junior College. When I transferred to Stanislaus, they didn't have Journalism, so I became an English major. I got a job working part-time at the *Modesto Bee* as a copy clerk. By being around journalists every day, I just thought, "I'm not sure I really love this." My parents wanted me to get my credentials, so finally I did.

M: I didn't plan to be a teacher either. If you had asked me in high school if I wanted to be a teacher, I probably would have just said "Hell no." I wanted to go into medicine, but after a couple of years of trying to get to med school without luck, I said, "Well maybe I should look into something else." At that point, teaching was looking better because I was already involved in church youth and boy scouts and stuff like that. So I had a lot of opportunities working with youth, and I was pretty good at it, so I gave teaching a try. I really loved science and teaching still gave me an opportunity to use that.

Q: *What is one topic in the world that currently interests you?*

B: Disneyland history and all of the things people don't know about the parks. I listen to a Disney podcast, and I love the creativity behind it all. It's all amazing to me.

M: Politics interest me, although not so much lately because things have gotten polarized and toxic. For years and years, I've read magazines like *National Review*. I like to read those kinds of magazines and follow it. Now, I don't watch the news everyday or anything like that, but I am interested in it.

Q: *Are you currently bingeing or watching any TV shows? If so, what show?*

B: Not currently. I just finished the second season of "Yellowstone". I've never finished watching "Downtown Abbey", and now the movie is coming out, so I have to somehow sign up for Hulu and catch up on all the seasons and watch the movie.

M: Over the summer, I was watching *Marvel's "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D."* Currently, I am watching "The Man in the High Castle". Next is probably the "Jack Ryan" series. So basically, I have shows that I like to watch, and when a new season comes out I watch the previous ones before I watch the new one.

Q: *Did you ever have any love interests in high school?*

B: I wouldn't say it that way. I mean, I dated. I didn't get married until I was 35 because I never wanted anybody to monopolize my time. I know that sounds really weird, but whenever I would meet someone and maybe be interested, they would all of a sudden want all of my time and I would be like "No," and friendzone them. I know it's terrible but that's what I did. Worked for me. *Laughter*

M: I love science. *Laughter* That's all I care to say on the topic. Yes, I had love interests in high school, but that's all I'm going to say.

Q: *What is your favorite movie and why?*

B: There's so many, but, going with the Disney theme, I love "Mary Poppins", and I just found out that it was released the same week I was born. Another Disney movie I like is "Beauty and the Beast". For more serious movies, "To Kill A Mockingbird" is a classic.

M: As the leader of the SEA, I have to say "Star Wars". I would also say the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy is also up there, and the "Terminator" series.

Student Advice Columns

So you've made it through six weeks of the 2019-2020 school year, and maybe have an idea of how it's going to go. Whether you're absolutely stoked or completely stressed, everyone could use some help to navigate a (relatively) new school year. Here's some advice that can help keep life in check this year!

Hey Freshmen!

By: Manasvini Kala

Dear freshmen,

High school is a turning point in your life. This is where you should decide and plan your future.

This includes your classes for the next four years, college, and finally, your job. To be successful in the future, you have to focus on the present.

1. **Stay on top of things.** You probably hear this all the time, but I want to make this clear to you. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! This is a serious mistake. Even if everyone does it, it definitely doesn't help in the long run. Procrastination will affect your everyday performance and your grades. Also, make sure you always turn in your work on time! Some teachers don't allow late work and will deduct points or give you a 0 if it's turned in late. It really hurts to take a 0 on an assignment you put effort into, so watch your deadlines!
2. **Be involved in school activities.** This includes monthly SEA activities, community service, clubs, sports, etc. Stay focused on what you want to achieve. It is easy to get distracted especially if you are in high school. Make sure you know what exactly you want and focus on it.
3. **Reach out!** If you ever need any help or have questions, ask a teacher or an upperclassman. Do not be scared to approach any upperclassmen; we don't bite. You will be spending the rest of your high school with all of your SEA classmates, so make sure you feel comfortable around each other.
4. **Don't sweat it.** Freshman year will fly by so fast that you will wonder where all the time went. Good luck and have fun! You will do great!

To the SEA Sophomores...

By: Cydney Macon

Dear sophomores,

Congrats! You survived your first year of high school! Freshman year is usually the year that you get to test the waters, meet new people, and understand what it means to be a part of the SEA. But now you're a sophomore. *What does it mean to be a sophomore?*, you might be asking. Sophomore year can be a challenge, but it's far from impossible. Here are a few things you should know about this year:

Balancing School with Extra Curricular Activities: This year, your workload will add up, and there might be some nights when you stay up after your own alarm goes off. Also, having to juggle with after school an activity like sports, clubs, etc. runs your battery down. A suggestion to get the chaos into order is creating a schedule that is flexible, realistic, and doesn't work you into exhaustion.

Responsibility: You've heard this word from your parents and teachers, and often it goes through one ear and out the ear. However, responsibility is a skill that you need to build, not only for your studies but to become that talented engineer you'll one day be. Imagine this: you're about to present to Apple with your ground-breaking idea but realize you left your flash drive with the presentation on it at home. Embarrassing, right? So take advantage of this year to learn this skill to avoid awkward scenarios like the one explained here.

You're not alone: You're sitting in class taking notes on your teacher's lesson. Midway into the lesson, the teacher seems like he/she is speaking gibberish, but the person next to you seems to get it and is already working on the homework. You suddenly start to feel that you don't belong in the class. Here's a piece of advice: usually when you don't understand something, about a handful of other kids don't understand

either. Remind yourself that everyone learns in different ways.

I hope these tips help you out this year. You can and will get through this year. Don't feel intimidated to ask any of your upperclassmen for help, because we know where you are, and we've been in your shoes before.

Fellow Juniors

By: Seemani Dash

Wow, we're upperclassmen. Is it just me, or does junior year already feel like it's flying by? We've dealt with a Creo Project, dressed up for our swanky presentations, and have already begun the studying for standardized testing. If you've tackled those with no sweat of your back, congratulations! I envy you! If not, here's some things that we should keep in mind this year.

1. **Testing is an evil we must face.** The SATs and ACTs are scary. However, no matter how terrifying they are, it's best to start studying for them now. This year, we take the PSAT, which can be a determining factor for National Merit (basically bragging rights), and it's crucial to watch your step with tests such as these.
2. **Find a balance.** Academics, extracurriculars, and a social life can exist. Believe me, finding a balance between all of them is difficult, but it's doable. Let loose and just breathe every now and then. It will help.
3. **Keep those grades up!** Junior year is by far the most important year in your high school career. What you do this year reflects on your character, and this could determine your future in the workforce, college admissions, and any other obstacle in your path to success. While your grades don't have to be perfect, keep them at C's and above to pass your classes and avoid summer school.
4. **Stay confident.** No matter how many times you feel under pressure, have faith in yourself. Berating yourself doesn't get your project done, and it takes away from

happier moments. Focus on the positives, and junior year will be a breeze.

Of course, studying habits, sleep, and staying responsible for our actions all are major rules to follow, but I'm sure you know them. This year is important, so don't let poor time management impact your performance. So, from a fellow junior, just know; you got this.

Dear Seniors,

By: Philip Ha

Wassup Seniors! We made it! We've finally gotten to the last year of our high school career! Now is the time for us to spend countless hours writing and revising and rewriting and deleting and crying and sleeping and dreading these personal statements! How fun! Now, I know that applying to colleges is probably the scariest thing currently going on in your life right now, but here's my advice to you: don't sweat it. Try not to spend every single waking hour trying to perfect your essays, because you honestly won't get anywhere. Instead of trying to rack your brain to write a story that will catch the soulless eyes of an admissions counselor, spend time focusing on yourself. Go hang out with friends, cheer at the football games, and have the time of your life. Why? Well, you're more likely to find inspiration and motivation to write your college statements when you aren't completely stressing over them, and sometimes, a story will come to you unexpectedly. You never know what could happen next. Now, I don't mean that you should completely avoid writing your statements until 11:59 PM on November 29th, but if you space out your work and prevent yourself from burning out, you'll live a much happier life. Trust me.

On that note, I wish you good luck on any SATs or ACTs you will take in the future, and may the college admissions gods smile upon you as you venture forth into the unknown. This is Philip Ha, signing off until the next newsletter. Peace out, Boy Scouts.

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Senior Corner

By: Philip Ha

Important Upcoming Dates for Seniors:

- October 1: Start of FAFSA Filing Period
- October 5: October SAT
- October 26: October ACT (Deadline: September 20)
- November 1: Start of Fall 2020 UC Admission Application Period
- November 2: November SAT (Deadline: October 3)
- November 30th: End of UC Application Filing Period
- December 7: December SAT (Deadline: November 8)
- December 14: December ACT (Deadline: November 8)

Don't let senioritis hit you quite yet! Good luck seniors!

Editor's Note

We're consistently trying to improve our program's newsletter, so send us your thoughts! Is there anything more you'd like to see? What questions would you like to see our teachers answer next? And most importantly, are you interested in writing for the newsletter? Let us know on any of our social media!