



THE COUGAR TIMES

of Memorial Hall School



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Using Phones in a Better Way

By Henry, Bao and Hung

On January 9, during daily lunch supervision at Memorial Hall School, principal Kimberly Taylor caught five students using their phones despite the fact that she had reminded all the students that morning that phones were prohibited for at least one more week at lunch. Students were expected to be really upset about this, but what actually happened might surprise you.

After a few days of observing lunch without phones or electronic devices, staff reporters Henry, Bao and Hung found that the school lunch had changed in a positive way. More and more students started to talk to each other which was really good for their social skills. There were even some boys playing soccer together after they

finished their lunch. In an interview with Henry, Bao and Hung, Ms. Kim explained her reasons for the lunchtime ban on devices. Her answers are in bold text below.

* Why can't students use their phones during lunch?

背 We used to allow students to use their phones or electronic devices during lunch. All of a sudden, the teachers looked and nobody was speaking to anybody else. Everybody had their head straight in their phone and we don't feel like that gives you a good opportunity to learn English. We want you to be social with each other. We want you to be interested in each other's lives. A way to teach social

Phones Taken Continued on Page 2

Tom, Daniel and Tyler are

The Idiom Guys

Read the following two sentences. Each sentence contains one underlined idiom. Can you guess what each idiom means? **Answers on the bottom of page 2!**



source: <https://ronyanassar001.wordpress.com>

I didn't study for the final test for tomorrow but I actually feel as cool as a cucumber to ace the exam.



source: pixels.com

John's idea about saving the environment is a lone voice in the wilderness.

Turn to **Idiom Guys** on page 2!

WHAT'S INSIDE THE COUGAR TIMES

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Phones Taken at Lunch, continued from page 1

skills is by sitting and visiting during meals. Usually in America, we don't sit at the table with our family or our friends and be on the phone. It's rude! So, we decided that we would try to take away all the devices and see if we can encourage you to get to know each other better and also just speak English.

* What happens to a student whose phone is taken?

背 The student's phones is taken up and then they have to buy it back for \$50.

Ban Continues

On January 24, five more electronic devices were taken by Mrs. Arnim during lunch. The devices included: 2 laptops, 1 Ipad, 1 bluetooth earbud and 2 phones.

Phone Prohibition Has Been Lifted

On January 29, Ms. Kim officially announced that the ban on phones was over. Students can now enjoy the diversion of using their phones or laptops to entertain themselves at lunch.

However, we reporters at The Cougar Times hope that the positive effects of the ban will remain, and students will continue to interact with each other during lunch with phone usage privileges.



Student devices taken at lunch, now in the office

The answer of the Idiom Guys:

- *As cool as a cucumber:* very calm and composed and untroubled by the stress

- *A lone voice in the wilderness:* A person or group whose idea or saying is the unique and the most creative one.



Funny Pictures on www.LeFunny.net

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH??

By Jade, Ben and Khoa



The most important activity in high school besides studying is having lunch. Memorial Hall School is an international school and a melting pot with a lot of students from different countries. Let's find out what students and teachers at MHS eat for lunch.

- **Jose** is a Portuguese student. He loves Deli which is a restaurant near our school. However, his favorite meal is noodles and orange chicken at Panda Express.



- **Giselle** is an Argentinian girl. Her favorite meal is potatoes stewed by her mom.



- **Heaven** is a Chinese student. He loves rice, meat and grilled fish made by grandma, Mr.Kim's wife.



- **Mrs.Arnim** is our lovely teacher. She enjoys her meal with salad and tuna fish made by herself.



Cougar Times reporters Jade, Ben, and Khoa asked several students what their favorite food is. The results can be found in the table below.

| Food Rating Chart | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Students | Jose | Giselle | Tony | Jessica | Margo |
| Burger | ★ ★ ★ | ★ ★ ★ | ★ ★ ★ | ★ ★ | ★ ★ |
| French Fries | ★ ★ | ★ ★ ★ | ★ ★ ★ | ★ ★ | ★ ★ ★ |
| Chicken Nugget | ★ ★ ★ | ★ ★ | ★ ★ ★ | ★ | ★ ★ ★ |

Lunch at Memorial Hall School is always great with people and good food.

We love lunch!

TIPS AND ADVICE ON HOW TO GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE



BY ALBERT ALEXANDER TRAN

Asking your parents to drive you to school, the mall, or your friend's party is always such a nuisance for each and every one of us, especially for international students whose capacities are limited by a variety of factors.

When I came to the US, I used to have a fear of driving partly because of my carsickness. Therefore, I had to endure the difficulties that not knowing how to drive a car brought. Then I decided to do some research on how to obtain a drivers license. Most of the information on the Internet was really frustrating as it didn't explicitly explain any obstacles I encountered. But after a year, I overcame the adversities and eventually got my drivers license. It would have been faster for me if there had been an expert to guide me. I do not want to see my fellow classmates go down the same path I did, and get stranded and stuck in a variety of complicated procedures. As a result, I will try to make my instructions as straightforward as possible

Before you can even put your hands on the wheel and drive legally, you must have a learner permit. In the United States, it is mandatory to finish a 32-hour driving course either via an online course endorsed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and Department of Public Safety (DPS) or via a driving school. In my opinion, driversed.com is by far the best website offering easily accessible and interactive online lessons. After you finish the first six lessons, you will be able to take the knowledge test that covers traffic signs and basic rules of the road. The test has forty questions and you need to score at least 70% to pass. After that, you will be issued a Certificate of Partial Completion that you must take with you to the DPS to apply for the learner permit.

At this point, please be prepared for the most complicated part of the journey. In addition to the list of paperwork given by the website (I-20, passport, VOE form), you should also remember to bring your latest I-94, utility bills, vehicle insurance, and especially your parents or your legal guardians!

Because I did not plan ahead to apply for the learner permit, I ended up desperately going to the DPS five times. Based on my experiences, I suggest you should visit the DPS in the middle of the week and optimally about 12 o'clock. Why not in the morning? You should give up your thinking that in the morning, nobody will be there because you are totally wrong. As a matter of fact, I went in the morning and ended up going home because the line was so shockingly long



THE TALENT SHOW

By Ashley, Bunny, and Annie

Memorial Hall School will organize a talent show like it does every year. This year, the talent show is on February 28. This occasion will occur after lunch in the cafeteria. Students and teachers can participate in this event. They will practice, prepare for their performances and show their talent in front of the school.

Why is this an annual event? In the talent show, students are able to show their talents outside of the stressful lesson hours. The school encourages students to participate and show their confidence. In addition, the program helps students to be more confident and bold. If working in groups, students will connect and develop better teamwork. Last but not least, students will have fun and keep many memories here- especially the seniors.

To encourage students, teachers will give some incentives for students. These are some incentives:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. Boswell | 1 homework pass |
| Mr. Tope | 1 homework pass |
| Mrs. Jacobs | 1 homework pass |
| Mrs. Goble | bonus points on a test |
| Mrs. Arnim | test pass |
| Mr. Hafidh | test pass |

Performance Categories:

- ☀ Vocal - Solo/Duet.
- ☆ Vocal - Group.
- ☀ Instrument - Solo/Duet.
- ☆ Instrument^s - Group.
- ☀ Dance - Solo/Duet.
- ☆ Dance - Group.
- ☀ Dramatic/ Comedic Interpretation - Solo/Duet.
- ☆ Dramatic/ Comedic Interpretation - Group.

The duration depends on how many performances we have. Also, participants have to follow the rules that are mentioned on the application form.

Interviews with some participants:

Albert:

“ I have been practicing since the day the school made an announcement about the event which was 2 months ago. Thanks to the delay, I, fortunately, had an opportunity to improve my performance to its fullest. Last but certainly not least, I cannot wait to perform and show you guys everything I have prepared so far.”

When we asked him to say something for other contestants, he said :

“ Good luck.....But next time.”

Tyler:

“ Since the day the school has made an announcement for the talent show, I was looking for a person who would be my partner. Now, I have made my decision. I will collaborate with Ben for our performance. We also are highly motivated to practice. We still keep practicing so hard, and I can't wait to perform what we have prepared for you guys.”



Driver's License, continued

that people had to wrap around the building, and everyone rushed one another to come inside. Another thing you should take into account is if you opt to take a test at DPS, which I completely do not recommend, please be prepared because you will do the test in a very uncomfortable atmosphere.

Once you finish the test, the last thing you need to do is to talk to the officer. You also have to make sure that you organize your paperwork neatly and orderly (they will appreciate it) otherwise not only are you wasting your time, but you will also interrupt their process.

If all goes well up to this point and the officer happily gives you the paperwork as shown below and asks you to sign it, well congratulations! You have already passed half of the journey of obtaining a drivers license!



Valentine's Day Party



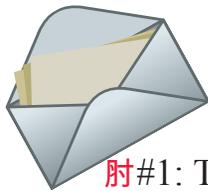
by Taylor, Daniel, Tom, Ashley, Bunny and Annie

"Valentine's day is the day for friendship, love, and happiness that everyone deserves to have." Mrs. Goble said.

As you know, February 14 is Valentine's Day when people spread their love and merriment and spend time gathering with their beloveds.

Especially, in our Memorial Hall School, students will have the Valentine's Party on this day. We will be dancing, having lots of fun, and dressing up.

"The student council is planning a great party. Come have fun," said Ms. Jacobs.



Personal Messages Friend - to -Friend



肘#1: Thank you for being a marvelous teacher, Mrs.Cupp! - Anonymous

肘#2: I want to say thank to Mr.Tope. You are very nice. - Anonymous

肘#3: Thank you for being so nice and enthusiastic, Ms.B! – Anonymous

肘#4: I love you, Susan – Anonymous

肘#5: I will try to be your good friend – From Annie to Vanessa

肘#6: Hey Susan, I'm a new student. I like your style a lot. Can I be your friend? *I'm a boy* - Anonymous

肘#7: I'm so blessed to be a part of the Memorial Hall Family. We have the best students and teachers in the world! – Mrs.Goble

肘#8: Thanks for being so friendly and funny! You crack me up! – From Ms.Boswell to Mrs.Jacobs

肘#9: Can I pass your physics class. – from Male Turkey to Mr.Tope

肘#10: Have a nice day, Ashley! – Anonymous.

肘#11: Have a good holiday, Ms.Boswell. – Anonymous

肘#12: Happy Birthday to Heaven. I love you – Anonymous

肘#13: Dear Mr.Tope, I have had a crush on you for a long time, but I don't have a courage to tell you -
from one of your best students

肘#14: Brian is cute. - Anonymous

肘#15: I love you, Bao - Anonymous

肘#16: To: Jazzy - Do you have a girlfriend yet? - Anonymous

DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE A NOTE FOR YOUR FRIEND OR SWEETHEART IN THE MAILBOX FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE COUGAR TIMES!

Thanks for reading our paper!

