Central Academy of Technology and Arts Cougar Chronicle



Volume 1: Issue 18 December 15, 2013

Central Academy

We are in the final week of school before Holiday Break. When students return we will have one week of instruction and review and then final exams in all courses. Remember that each 6 week grade counts for 25% of your final semester grade, and the final exam itself counts for 25% of the final semester grade. Students should take advantage of all tutoring and review opportunities with teachers. The final exam schedule and study tips are posted in each classroom and are on the last pages of the Cougar Chronicle this week. We will be starting with the 4th period exam on Monday 1/13, so be sure you check out the schedule. All students are required to stay for all exam reviews. ALL students are required to take their final exams during finals week, and on the days scheduled.

One requirement of a school is to notify parents if their child has accumulated the required minimum number of instructional hours necessary for the school to award credit for a course. This process was started last week and will continue this week. Students that were over the limit on absences were given a waiver form to take to their teachers and parents. Parents were mailed a letter expressing that their child has accumulated too many absences and needs to complete a waiver form for consideration. Administrators will be considering waiver forms early in the week and will mail home the completed form mid-week. If enough absences were waived through the process, the student has finished the process unless they accumulate more absences. If enough absences were not waived, then the student must complete all recovery hours documented on the waiver form. Recovery opportunities will occur after school and on Saturdays when we return from break.

We have many athletic events next week and hope that you will come out to cheer on the Cougars!! Concessions will be open at all home events. Encourage your children to come out, join the Blue Crew, and cheer on the Cougars. Congratulations to our Dance, Band, Chorus, and Theatre Technicians for putting on a fabulous Holiday Collaborative. If you attended, you had a great experience for your holiday season.

Students that took the PSAT this year got their scores back last week. All Juniors will be taking the ACT, a college placement test, in March. Resources have been placed on the Students page of the website so that students may begin preparing now. Major school opportunities are also being implemented now. For more information, contact Ms. White, Assistant Principal.

A special thanks to all clubs, teachers, and students that have contributed to the many fundraising or donation drives that have occurred for families, countries, or organizations during the holiday time. Your generosity is impressive and shows a truly kind and caring spirit that we get to see every day at CATA.

The Cougar Chronicle, our Facebook page, in addition to our website, will be the main form of communication from school to home. At CATA we will continue to work toward Leading the Way so that your child can lead the way in the future! Go Cougars! And of course—Happy, happy Holidays!! Fisenne, Principal

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600 Brewer Drive, Monroe, NC 28112 (704) 296-3088 (Phone) (704) 296-3090 (Fax) http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us

Look for text that is blue and underlined. This text is hyperlinked to the corresponding information available on the web. Click on the text to be taken to the corresponding webpage.

~Class of 2014~Seniors

Graduation Day: Thursday, June 12, 2014 at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC 3:00 pm



Scholarships:

AXA Achievement Scholarship - One student from each state will be selected for this \$10,000 scholarship. Seniors must be a U.S. Citizen or legal resident, plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university in the U.S., have demonstrated ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in an activity in school, the community or the work-place, and be recommended by an unrelated adult who can attest to the student's achievement. Please visit their website for more information and for an application: http://www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/AXA-achievement-scholarship.html. Deadline to apply is December 15, 2013.

College Visits: Go on line and check the college web site for the visitation dates. You may visit three colleges a year; bring something back stating you were involved in a college visit, and the days are excused.

Senior Honor Awards' Opportunities

Seniors have the opportunity to be recognized at graduation for two UCPS honor programs. The first one is the North Carolina Academic Scholars Program and the second program is the UCPS Global Scholars Program. Both programs are similar in that students must meet the North Carolina graduation requirements and both award a special seal for the student's diploma, an honor cord, and recognition in the program at graduation.

With the NC Scholar's Program, students must have an over-all unweighted GPA of a 3.5. and take combinations of elective requirements including three extra honor or AP level courses in the student's junior and/or senior year.

To receive the Global Scholar's Award, the student must submit a proposal to the school's Graduation/Scholarship Committee outlining their plans for completing a Service Learning Project that will allow them to contribute to the local, national, or world community. The project must have a global theme and if approved, the student would present a written artifact to the committee. The student must also take a global awareness class and include two honor electives in recommended electives.

The specific requirements for each program can be found on page 17 and 18 in the UCPS Program of Studies.

Seniors, Check your email frequently for Counselor Information.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

Leadership Conference for High School Women at Meredith College:

On Saturday, February 1, 2014 Meredith College will offer its annual women's leadership development conference for female juniors who are currently in leadership positions or who aspire to assume leadership positions their senior year. This leadership conference intends to help students become more effective leaders in their schools and communities.

Pre-registration is required. Only 250 slots are available, so register ASAP! For more information, and to register, please visit http://www.meredith.edu/admissions/lc. There is no cost to attend the conference, and lunch will be provided; however, the student must provide their own transportation. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Meredith College at (919)760-8581 or 1-800 -MEREDITH. Registration deadline: January 24, 2014.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

PSAT results Students who took the October PSAT received their score sheets and test booklets this past week. Guidance met with students to review how to read

~Class of 2014~

the scores and use their test result to help students to prepare for the SAT.

Please read the following information concerning Collegeboard's program designed to use the PSAT scores for My College QuickStart.

My College QuickStart is available free to PSAT takers, it gives students a personalized tool powered by their test results. Using the unique <u>access codes</u> provided on their Score Reports, students will be able to connect to these helpful resources to start thinking about the road ahead:

My Online Score Report — Score results, test question details, and students' projected SAT® scores.

My SAT Study Plan[™] — Personalized skills feedback and access to hundreds of practice questions to prepare for the SAT.

My Personality — A detailed personality test that can help students discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests.

My College Matches — A starter list of colleges based on the student's home state and indicated choice of major.

My Major and Career Matches — Extensive information about majors and careers, including what to expect in college and what courses to take now.

My AP Potential™ — AP Potential for more than 20 different AP® courses as well as recommendations for AP courses related to their intended college major.



ACT—All Juniors will take the ACT in March. This is a college readiness exam and can help students to gain entry into college and qualify for scholarships. Resources to help students prepare have been added to the Students Page of the CATA website.

March 2 Success is an **online test preparation course** that provides help with standardized tests, and improving math, language arts, and science skills. This site is FREE and there is no obligation. To get started, visit: https://www.march2success.com/index.cfm

What do I want to be when I grow up??????

Guidance counselors would like to encourage you to have your child take the ASVAB. The ASVAB is an excellent interest inventory test that can help your child see

what careers they are best suited for. It will be given on December 17th at CATA at 9:00 AM. It is free!!!!! This is not a test for your child to sign up for the military; it is one of the best interest inventories to help them see where their strengths lie for a career choice.

10th-12th graders may sign up in guidance to take the ASVAB.

Summer Ventures offers a 4-week FREE residential academic program in science and math for rising juniors and seniors. The programs will be offered at ASU, East Carolina, NC Central, and UNC Charlotte. **Deadline to apply: January 31st.** Applications can be found online at www.summerventures.org. Stop by the Guidance Office for more information.







Central Academy - Cougar Spirit Got Spirit?? Yes, We Do!!

CATA Lacrosse club dues are due by Friday, January 17th. This will determine if CATA will move forward in fielding a lacrosse club this spring.



For information about Baseball workouts please contact Coach Rowell at nel-son.rowell@ucps.k12.nc.us. For information about softball and volleyball workouts please contact Coach Mayhew at doug.mayhew@ucps.k12.nc.us

The mandatory parent meeting for ALL spring sports athletes will take place in the CATA Gym on Monday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm. Please contact Coach Niessner if you have any questions.

CATA Athletic Gear is on sale at all home basketball games this week. CATA Athletic Gear makes great holiday gifts!









T-Shirts \$15.00

Hats \$15.00

T-Shirts \$15.00

Winter Hats \$15.00

Congratulations to Ryan Grigston (men's soccer) and Elijah Inuwa (cross country) for making the 2nd team All Charlotte Observer in their respected sports this fall.

All athletic forms should be filled out prior to tryouts for spring sports, all papers can be found on the CA-TA website, these include:

Current Physical
Insurance Waiver
UCPS Eligibility Form
UCPS Release Form
NCHSAA Concussion Form

Student athletes should check with Coach Niessner to see if they have all paperwork turned in before trying out for a sport.

Be sure to check out this week's athletic schedules!!! Last week's games were exciting and we need that Blue Crew Spirit at home and away games!!!! Come out and Support your Cougars!!!!!

COUGAR ATHLETICS

Varsity Results:

Wrestling: CATA 63 – Forest Hills 24, CATA 63 – Charlotte Country Day 18

Men's Basketball: CATA 68 - Bessemer City 61, CATA 57- Cuthbertson 43, CATA 81 - Pageland

Central 60

Women's Basketball: CATA 53 - Bessemer City 34, CATA 30 - Cuthbertson 79, CATA 56 - Page-

land Central 68

Men's and Women's Swimming: Union County Meet Men: Women:

Upcoming Events:

Monday 12/16: HOME Basketball vs. Pageland Central (All Four Teams) 4:00 pm

Tuesday 12/17: AWAY Indoor Track @ Weddington 4:00 pm HOME Wrestling vs. Forest Hills 6:30 pm

Wednesday 12/18: No Events

Thursday 12/19: HOME Basketball vs. Piedmont (All Four Teams) 4:00 pm

Friday 12/20: HOME Basketball vs. Sun Valley 6:00 pm & 7:30 pm Varsity Only

Saturday 12/21: AWAY Swimming @ Wingate

Other Athletic News:

The NCHSAA athletic dead period is now over and spring/fall sports may resume offseason workouts. Student athletes <u>MUST</u> have a <u>current physical and insurance waiver</u> on file to participate in workouts. All athletic forms can be found on the CATA website.

The first official day of spring sports is Wednesday, February 12th

The first day for spring games is Wednesday, February 26^{th.}

Spring sports schedules are being finalized and will be posted on the CATA website following winter break.

Men's Tennis workouts are taking place on Monday's and Thursday's from 4:00-5:30 pm each day. Contact Coach Niessner if you have any questions.

Congratulations to CATA Cross Country Runner Elijah Inuwa for making the Union County Weekly Super Team for the 2013 Season!

Women's Soccer Workouts will be on the following dates from 4:00-5:15 pm. Be prepared for indoor & outdoor activity every day, Meet @ the weight room, December: 12, 13, 17, 18, 20, January: 6, 7, 8, 9, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, February: 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, Contact Coach Niessner if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Kaley Williford and Rachel Nance for making the Union County Weekly Women's Tennis Super Team for the 2013 Season!

Fundraiser for the Philippines

A group of students from a variety of clubs have been working on a campaign to raise money to do-

nate to the Red Cross to help with the efforts to bring relief to the survivors of Typhoon Hai-yan. This money will be used to buy medicine, clean water, food, and provide shelter for people in the Philippines. We will be raising money during 4th period classes. The students will come around and collect money from each 4th period class on the following remaining date:

Wednesday, December 18th

The class with the most money donated will receive a pizza party on Friday, December 20th.



CATA Students have raised OVER \$600 already!!!!

CATA Recognized as a Global Partners School

Central Academy of Technology and Arts was recognized along with many other UCPS schools for being a Global Partners School. This honor recognizes the hard work of CATA teachers, staff, students, and parents last year in placing an emphasis on globalization in education.

Global issues incorporated in lessons, cultural events, and support of global issues and needs

are just some of the many qualities looked for in

a global school.

Congratulations to Central Academy on this great honor!!



Student Recognition Program

The Cougar Council PTSO is spearheading a new student academic recognition program at CATA. Each semester teachers will recognize a student in each of their courses.

Criteria for selection may include the following: students who have shown the most improvement in a grading period, students who are most attentive and helpful in class, students who follow the class rules, students who participate in class regularly, students who seek help when needed, and students who work very hard to do the best that they can.

As part of this program, the students will be invited to a breakfast on Wednesday, January 8th, 2014. We are asking for donations to help make this a great event.

Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the front office before Friday, December 20th. All items are requested to be delivered by Monday, January 6th, 2014 (the first day back from break). If donating Chick-fil-a gift cards, please bring those to the school as soon as possible so we can order the needed amount of biscuits.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Christensen at the school - 704-296-3088. Please click the link in the box below to sign up.

Please click on the link below to view the online sign up sheet. To sign up, go to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0E4BABAA2AA31-student/4676386

Central Academy Tech Tips

Have you visited the Technology page on the CATA Website lately? Please do visit for an updated page with a wealth of information for students, teachers, and families. <u>Click here.</u>







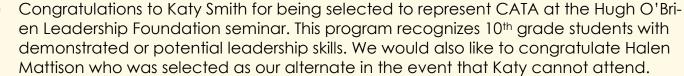






Important Reminder—Students are NOT permitted to use proxy's or "find ways" to get to unapproved websites, or download materials to their school laptops. This includes downloading movies. Remember that you must follow the UCPS rules for computer use. If you violate them, you may be restricted from internet access or computer use. The firewalls in place are for overall student safety. If a student thinks there is a website that should be accessible, speak to your teacher or our Technology staff. This is an important life lesson to be learned as all computer systems have safeguards put in, and at both college and in the workplace, you will need to abide by those policies. You can review those policies on the page above.

Cougar Pride





- Congratulations to all groups participating in the Monroe Christmas Parade!! Special thanks to the Band of Blue, SADD Club, Transportation Academy, Parade Princess Paige Finney, and Miss CATA Pageant contestants for participating!!
- Congratulations to Kelly Manning, a senior from Ms. Cable's Honors English IV class, who took the top honors at CATA's annual Poetry Out Loud Competition. In second place was Roni Rose, of Dr. Tarlton's AP English III class, and tied for third place was Siah Reed of Ms. Cable's Honors English IV class and Alisha Hartley of Ms. Henry's Honors English IV class. Congratulations to all CATA students that participated. Way to Go!!!

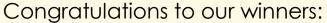




Yearbooks—Be sure to buy your yearbook!!!!
Yearbookforever.com

5th Annual Miss CATA Pageant

The Dance Academy presented the **5th Annual Miss CA-TA Pageant**, Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 pm.



Miss CATA, Jordan Auvil

Miss Freshman, Allison Davis

Miss Sophomore, Alyssa Macomber

Miss Junior, Anna Plyler,

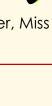
Miss Senior, Olyvia Thomas











Around Campus... (for all home and away sports times, see Athletics section)

The CATA website Calendar is a great resource—please see that on the main page.

Monday, 12/16 am SADD Holiday Fundraiser -buy your Holiday Bear at lunch; pm—HOME Basketball vs. Pageland

Tuesday, 12/17– am Cougar Time; ASVAB Testing (see Guidance page); pm—3:45 HOSA (Hincemon's room); Hands Helping Others (rm 523); 6:30 HOME Wrestling

Wednesday, **12/18**—am–PROGRESS REPORTS DISTRIBUTED; 8:15 Beta Club; pm—3:30 Debate Team (Ms. Cochran's room); 3:40 Art Club(102); 3:45 Beta Club

Thursday, **12/19**—am 8:00 FCA Huddles (Sholar and Gundersen's rooms); Cougar Time; pm– HOME Basketball vs. Piedmont; 7:00 Piano Recital Auditorium

Friday, **12/20**— am 8:20 YCI meetings (Robinson); Holiday Spirit Pajama Pants and Holiday Hat Day; pm—Student Staff Basketball Game; HOME Varsity only Basketball vs. Sun Valley (6:00)

Upcoming Dates:

12/23—Winter Break Begins
1/6/2014—Students Return to School

Final Exams: Exams will be given on dates listed below. Students may not take exams early and must be present, unless sick, for all exams.

Monday 1/13—Fourth Period Exam

Wednesday 1/15—Second Period Exam

Triday 1/16—First Period Exam

Thursday 1/16—First Period Exam

Thursday 1/16—First Period Exam

Second Semester Starts on Thursday 1/23/14

SEE MORE FINALS INFORMATION AT THE END OF THE COUGAR CHRONICLE.....*****

Driver's Education—Sign Up Now!! Driver's Ed classes must meet the minimum number of students or the class will be cancelled. Please sign up early so that classes are filled and do not have to be cancelled. If we have to cancel a class, the student will be moved to the next scheduled class. Refunds are <u>not</u> permitted. The fee is \$55.00. A student must be at least 14 1/2 years old on the first day of class. Classes will run Monday through Friday from 4:00-6:00 pm. To sign up please contact Ms. Tammy Tweed in the guidance office **as soon as possible**. The next class is Nov. 12th—Dec. 10th. Most Fall athletes should be able to take this class. After that: Feb. 18- March 14; March 17- April 9



UCPS Driver's Education Winter Break Class

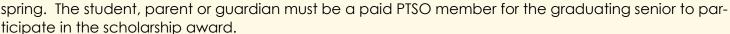
UPCS will offer a winter break opportunity this year for Driver's Education at Sun Valley High School. Sports students are encouraged to participate in this class. Class will meet December 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 2, 4. Class times are 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Classroom work will also require two hours of homework. Students cannot miss any days. Students that miss any days or do not complete homework will be given the opportunity to reapply at their home school for Driver's Education. Please register and pay online at: https://sites.google.com/site/svhsdriversed/.

https://sites.google.com/a/ucps.k12.nc.us/driver-education/

PTSO Are you looking to get involved at CATA? Join the Cougar Council, PTSO! We plan events for the teachers and provide resources for students. We would love to have you join us! Please fill out the information sheet on the PTSO website.

PTSO is continuing to sell CATA senior Yard Signs! Honor your senior CATA student with a great yard sign!!! Contact the PTSO at the email below for more information and GET YOURS TODAY !!!!!

Graduating seniors may be eligible to participate in the Cougar Council Senior Scholarship awards which will be given in the



We need new faces to help come up with new ideas and accomplish plans we already have. Please join PTSO and then join us for the meeting!

To contact the PTSO, please email us at thecougarcouncil@gmail.com. You may also call the school at 704-296-3088 and ask for Deb Christensen.

PTSO membership - \$10 per family (which includes the student and parents), \$5 per student, \$5 per staff PTSO is seeking volunteers to help with hospitality/teacher events, and many other areas. Contact thecougarcouncil@gmail.com to sign up

Support CATA when you use your VIC card at Harris Teeter. Link your card to our school's account - # 3612. Click here to re-link online or visit any Harris Teeter store. We appreciate your support!



Parent access to grades requires a new Username and Password. To obtain the information, parent or legal guardian must bring photo ID to CATA. Parents may pick up their username and password during regular office hours, from 7:30 am—5:00 pm.

Please remember that you must show a photo ID to get the username and password. We will also be asking you to verify contact information when you come in, so if you have any changes to emergency contacts, please bring them with you.

Thank you to all who have already come in to collect their password. If you have problems with the account set up, please contact Ms. Penny Lewis at CATA. If you have a question about grades, please contact the teacher directly.

Grade Level Administrators—

9th grade—<u>Mr. Willie Howard III</u> 10th grade—<u>Mr. Jeff Pusser</u> 11th grade—<u>Ms. Deanna White</u> 12th grade—<u>Mr. Jeff Pusser</u>

GO.

Home of a

CATA Senior

School Safety Reminders - Healthy Youth

The link below is to the current issue of *The Safety Net*, UCPS Support and Prevention's quarterly newsletter. *The Safety Net* strives to include relevant and timely topics that impact the health and safety of our youth, with the belief that knowledge is our best weapon to protect them.

If there are particular topics or subject matter you would like to see included in future issues, please feel free to contact me.

This newsletter, as well as archived issues, may also be found on our web site at http://sdfs.ucps.k12.nc.us/sdfs/newsletters.php.

In this issue you will find information on:

Drugs and Driving: A Fatal Mix
Gun Violence in Movies
(Not So) New and Emerging Drugs
Sports/Diet Supplements May Contain Meth-Like Chemical
Teen Dating Violence
Media Influence on Adolescent Alcohol Use

School Reminders—All visitors must enter through the front doors and sign in at the office. Students coming to school tardy MUST enter through front doors only.

Remind your children to NEVER open exterior doors and to get an adult if someone comes to an exterior door.

In November, all students and staff participated in an important safety drill—a lockdown drill. Students and staff practice procedures that would be used in the event there was an intruder in the school building. The Monroe Police Department joined with CATA Administrators in overseeing this practice. The Monroe Police Officers were very complimentary of our students and staff and the efficiency of our procedures.

Lockdown drills are one of many safety procedures that we follow. We also conduct Fire and Tornado drills. In addition, this year our staff and students have made a concerted effort to ensure that all exterior doors are locked and secure during the school day. All visitors are required to enter through the main entrance and enter the front office to check in.

Information resources from Central Academy include:

Central Academy of Technology and Arts website at: http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us/

Central Academy of Technology and Arts facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/ Central Academy CATA

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Twitter at: https://twitter.com/cata_monroe

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Athletic Twitter at: https://twitter.com/CATA Athletics Central Academy of Technology and Arts Band page at: https://cataband.blogspot.com/

Any other sites are not sites that are sanctioned by the school. We caution parents and families to get current and accurate information from the official sites listed above.

If a school club or school organization has an additional page, please notify Administration so that we can properly authorize the site. Thank you.

Want MORE info?? Go to the CATA website, click on Parents and Community, then click on link for the newsletters—the Cougar Chronicle. Past issues are posted there each week!!

Student Testing Calendar January 2014

EOC, IMS, NC Final, and Teacher

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 13, 2014	January 14, 2014	January 15, 2014	January 16, 2014	January 17, 2014
8:50 – 12:50	8:50 – 12:50	8:50 – 12:50	8:50 – 12:50	8:50 – 12:50
All 4th period	All 3rd period	All 2 nd peri-	All 1st period	All make-up
exams	exams	od exams	exams	exams
12:55 – 1:40 Lunch 1:45 – 3:30 3 rd period re- view	12:55 – 1:40 Lunch 1:45 – 3:30 2 nd period review	12:55 – 1:40 Lunch 1:45 – 3:30 1 st period re- view	12:55 – 1:40 Lunch 1:45 – 3:30 Community Building	8:50 – 3:30 All students will follow a regular schedule, unless making up an exam.

January 13 – January 17, 2014: All students must attend review sessions, exams, and regular school day. Failure to attend will be counted as additional absences. Trips will not be considered excused absences and the student will not be given a makeup exam. Only exams that are missed due to documented illness or court will be excused.

EVERY class will be given a comprehensive final exam that will count for 25% of the student's final grade. Students can significantly increase or decrease their semester average with their final exam. Students should utilize notes, study guides provided by the teacher, and other resources to prepare for the final exam. Teachers will provide review sessions as listed above. The review session for the 4th period exam will occur on Friday, January 10th during the last block of the day.

Central Academy expects students to display their learning with academic integrity. Per student code of conduct, any student that is "cheating" will earn a ZERO for that final exam. As final exams account for 25% of the cumulative grade, we are reminding students that cheating on a final exam will have serious ramifications to their grade.

ALL Cell phones will be collected from students prior to final exams each day. Students should turn phones off prior to collection. Phones will be returned to students at the end of the testing window (12:50). NO exceptions. If a student does not turn in their cell phone and is found with it during the test, it will be considered cheating.

There will be NO extra-curricular events after school during exam week. Afterschool activities may resume on Thursday 1/16. Note—Athletic practices can occur until 5:00 each day as needed.

Cougar Final Exam Tips

- * Create a study calendar and stick to it
- Ask your teacher for a study guide and USE IT!!
- Use your notebook to guide you through a review of the course
- Attend all review sessions offered
- Go to tutoring for extra support
- Make a study group, assign each person a topic to reteach
- Make a study group and discuss each topic
- Have your parents ask you questions
- Use diagrams, graphs, pictures, and drawings in your textbook to serve as a talking point for you to review
- Make flashcards on your computer or phone to practice important vocabulary words
- Look at your scores from the semester and identify topics
 you struggled in ask your teacher or a friend for help
- Stay after school to study let an administrator know which days your study group needs to stay and study and we will make arrangements for you to stay to study
- Rewrite important points, the act of writing or typing helps
 some people remember specific information
- Create an acronym, or a funny saying, or song to remember specific information
- Draw a quick sketch to help with definitions or concepts
- Practice math problems
- What other suggestions can your class come up with?