

procrastination sites

by Dani Colona

Procrastination. That's every teenager's favorite word. And there are always those websites open when parents come to check on what we're up to when we're "doing homework." Now, there are a lot of websites that keep our attention away from the essay we're supposed to be writing or the facts we're supposed to be finding.

1. My Life is Average - And this site is anything but average now. A few years and about 800 pages of average stories later, reading the stories on this site has become a daily habit for some people, including me. But what are the stories on this site like? They range from stories like this, "Today, I went to the supermarket. They didn't have white bread, so I bought whole wheat. MLIA." However, now the stories have become unbelievable, like this one: "A few days ago, I was walking out of class on my college campus and almost immediately saw a squirrel scaling the side of a very steep, brick building. I stopped to see if he would make it, and as I was standing there, a crowd of about six or seven people developed around me. We cheered the squirrel on until it reached the top and then we broke out in applause when it did. I love college. MLIA." It's funny and outrageous tales

like these that keep people reading every day.

2. Facebook - Some of us log in to this site so often that we can type in our emails and passwords without looking at the keyboard. We don't even need to be on Facebook as long we stay on, because of the many addicting games, like Farmville, Happy Pets, and Happy Aquarium, and chatting with friend for hours on end. And let's face it, I'm procrastinating on it right now.

3. Mystery Google - That's right, Google's dominating this list with a new extension to add to its long list. Mystery Google is a site where you type in something random, anything you want, like a little message, and the next person to attempt to search something will be led to what you searched. Well what about you? You're taken to what the person before you searched for, which could be anything.



EVEN DYLAN GRUBE GETS STRESSED OUT. SPEND TIME RELAXING BY LOOKING AT THESE SITES. PHOTOS: J. GROSSEN, ECHO

procrastination pointers

by Paige Tinney

Tests, homework, essays, projects; the four main things students hate about school. Trying to balance all of those along with sports or other co-curricular activities can lead to one word no one wants to hear: procrastination. We all do it at times. Most will agree that hanging out with friends or watching TV is was more exciting than writing a five paragraph essay. The worst situation? It's 10 o'clock pm, your sitting on the couch watching your favorite sitcom, and you suddenly remember that the two page paper your English teacher assigned is due tomorrow. Oh no. Your mind is suddenly spiraling out of control. This is one of the most horrible feelings a student could ever experience. As teenagers, we are labeled as "lazy", and there is no use denying it. Sometimes we are very lackadaisical. When our lazy side gets the best of us is when we procrastinate.

Amelia Meirzwa, a junior, told me a story about her procrastination, "The other day, Mr. Fritchey assigned a project that he gave us two weeks to do. My group and I were just too lazy to do it, so we didn't hand it in."

With the holiday's right around the corner, all we can look forward to is break, and we tend to focus more on what we want for Christmas rather than our school work. Here is a list of tips to help you to stay on track and avoid procrastination.

- Write down every assignment and its due date in your student handbook. This way you can refer back to it if you're confused or think you're forgetting something.

- Stay on task! Don't start to write an essay, then "save it to write for another day". You will most likely forget what you were writing about, and if you get everything done in one sitting, you'll have more free time

afterwards.

- Don't wait until the day the homework is due to do it. Something else may come up that will enable you to finish it on time, or before class. Kaitlyn Eckley, a sophomore, gave some of her personal advice for stopping procrastination. "I think about plans I have later that night so I can get everything done and go where I planned."

- For tests, study your notes for 5-10 minutes every night, to that way the night before the test, you won't have to cram.

At some point, everyone forgets, and if you do, it's not the end of the world. If you have to do a last minute homework assignment or essay, just try your best on it. But with these strategies to studying and working, you will become a better student, and ultimately less of a procrastinator.

mary had a little ramble



"I'm so stressed!": how to multi-task and make the grade

by Mary Elchert

Pages flipping furiously, hair frizzed to the max, and nails bitten down to the core. These are the symptoms of anxiety and what's also known as MIDTERM MANIA. Most people tend to not do as well as they want to on these tests because they don't know how to study. Luckily all of you have me, Mary Elchert, school expert, to give you advice on how to get the "A" without the stress.

Organization is key. Your assignment book is given to you to use, so use it! It will help you set up time for certain subjects, so you can study one class at a time over a course of weeks instead of an "all nighter" the day before the test. I use my assignment book for everything: from writing what to bring home to when I can study. You can also master great time management by using activity periods to go for help. Never be afraid to ask for help: it's what teachers are here for!

Once you have your assignment book raring to go, you need to have something to study from. Make sure your notes are nice and neat. You can't study chicken scratch. When I take notes, I write with a pen and I have white out beside me. Dark writing is easy to read and white out makes my simplest mistakes disappear with a swipe of its brush. You should also get folders to stick all important worksheets in so that they are easy to access when you crack open the books. A binder is also a great way to stay organized. It combines both the function of a folder and the purpose of a notebook.

When organization is mastered, you move onto the next step: repetition and memorization. You should spread your studying out over a period of weeks instead of one night. Your brain needs time to process and all nighters don't give it the time to digest.

The last and final step is the follow through. Go to bed early and eat breakfast in the morning. This will get your brain going and help to jog your memory and attitude. "I always have my mom make me a well-balanced breakfast to get my mind working," said Shane Hodge. Bring everything you need to take your test: a couple of number two pencils, a calculator for math, and flashcards for a quick refresher before the test. Coming prepared for the temperature by bringing a sweatshirt with you will keep you comfortable throughout the exam. These tips are also helpful when dealing with college exams and quizzes and will keep those Midterm Mania symptoms at bay.