

All about Jack Menasion

Dear Readers,

My name is Jack. I'm quite the vertically challenged individual and my eyes are really blue. Those are some of my notable physical characteristics that I possess. Some other things you may want to know about me is that I grew up in Southwest Philly and my dad grew up there too. My middle school was Penn Alexander and I went to preschool at P.I.C. Another thing you also may know is that my mom is Ms. Menasion, the Study Skills teacher at SLA.

In the Me Magazine article, I will talk about some of my favorite things such as my hobbies and just about me in general. One of my favorite hobbies is cooking, which is what I will discuss for a majority of the article, along with other hobbies such as video games and rating movies. I hope you enjoy learning all about me.

Sincerely,
Jack

Cooking with Jack

One of my biggest passions is cooking. One reason why I love it so much is because it's just a time where I get to do something for someone. I like all the aspects of it, how you have to be so precise with it and how one little thing could change it completely. I also love the feeling of people telling me how good the food is and that I did a good job with it. For me it's one of the best feelings in the world. Nothing makes me happier than cooking food and it tastes better than the feeling of hitting the lottery knowing you were the one to make it. My parents also really like when I cook because it helps them out a lot because they don't have to make food for me.

I usually cook with my family. It's nice because I get to help out my parents and use it as a bonding activity. I feel like cooking is a community building activity because you can do it as a group and cooking for someone else can help someone out a lot. An example of cooking being a community building activity is soup kitchens. Soup kitchens are a place where a group of people get together and cook dinner for the less fortunate people who don't have food or a place to live. I feel like if we all got together and cooked for people more it could really benefit us all as a community.

Something you may not know about me is that I have been vegetarian for most of my life. Being vegetarian was surprisingly easy and if you don't know it means not being able to eat meat. For me it was pretty easy because all my favorite foods were pastas and that kind of thing. Some of my favorites were ravioli, penne vodka, and fettuccine alfredo. I always had a lot of fun cooking these dishes with my family. My favorite out of them all being penne vodka.

I really enjoy cooking and it's a really good family bonding activity. It's also a great way to give back to the community and just a good way to brighten the mood of others in hard times. Example when my brother had covid his friends made him food and brought it to him.

Educational Vignette

It was the first day back from Christmas break. I was so excited to see my friends and my teacher. Our project was to write about what you would do if you were invited on a plane trip on airforce one with Donald Trump and I don't want to do it. All I know is that I don't want to get on a plane with Donald Trump or have anything to do with him. I told the teacher that I don't like Trump and would hate to be on a plane with him. So then she was mad at me.

I was in 3rd grade, the kids were laughing and all I could do was cry. I tried to do some of the work but I couldn't think of anything and I explained to the teacher I wouldn't like to be in that situation. She yelled some more and sent me to the office. It was the first day back at school. I was supposed to be happy to see my friends and the teacher, but instead I'm in the office crying. I hate it there. I attempted to explain what happened to the counselor but all she listened to was the teacher.

I went home after having a bad day and in horror found that my teacher had written my parents a note! There's one thing different though: my parents aren't mad at me, they're mad at my teacher. They tell me it's not my fault and that I'm just a kid and my teacher should be bringing up her opinions on politics to children. Earlier that school year, we were at the zoo for a field trip, the kids asked her who she voted for and she proudly told us she voted for Trump. My parents didn't like that and neither did I. I had heard of all the terrible things he had done. How can I trust the teacher when she voted and agrees with this monster? My teacher told me all these things like how he built the wall to keep out "bad people".

This year I really struggled in school, distracted by the fact my teacher voted for Trump which really shouldn't bother me but somehow does. I also learned that teachers aren't always perfect and sometimes make bad choices that we don't agree with but that doesn't always make them bad people. That year I learned to get over things and move on. Also not to let that kind of thing bother me and to just accept people for who they are.

Penne Vodka Recipe

INGREDIENTS

3 tbsp. butter

1 shallot, minced

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 c. tomato paste

1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

2 tbsp. vodka

Kosher salt

1 lb. tubed pasta, such as penne or rigatoni

1/2 c. heavy cream

1/2 c. freshly grated Parmesan, plus more for serving













Basil, for serving

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add shallot and garlic and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, 4 to 5 minutes.
2. Add tomato paste and red pepper flakes and cook, stirring frequently, until paste has coated shallots and garlic and is beginning to darken, 5 minutes.
3. Add vodka to pot and stir to incorporate, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Turn off heat.

4. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook pasta until al dente. Reserve 2 cups of pasta water before draining.
5. Return sauce to medium heat and add 1/4 cup of pasta water and heavy cream, stirring to combine. Add half the Parmesan and stir until melted. Turn off heat and stir in cooked pasta. Fold in remaining Parmesan, adding more pasta water (about a tablespoon at a time) if the sauce is looking dry. Season with salt if needed. Serve topped with more Parmesan and torn basil leaves.

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a26556220/penne-alla-vodka-recipe/>

Jack's top ten favorite songs:

1		911 / Mr. Lonely (feat. Frank Ocean & Steve...) Tyler, The Creator, Frank Ocean, Steve Lacy	Flower Boy	7 minutes ago		4:16
2		American Boy Estelle, Kanye West	Shine	7 minutes ago		4:45
3		It Was A Good Day Ice Cube	The Predator	6 minutes ago		4:20
4		Rhymes Like Dimes MF DOOM, DJ Cucumber Slice	Operation: Doomsday (Complete)	5 minutes ago		4:19
5		Everything I Am Kanye West, DJ Premier	Graduation	5 minutes ago		3:48
6		BEST INTEREST Tyler, The Creator	BEST INTEREST	5 minutes ago		2:08
7		Homecoming Kanye West, Chris Martin	Graduation	5 minutes ago		3:23
8		Almeda Solange	When I Get Home	4 minutes ago		3:56
9		We Major Kanye West, Nas, Really Doe	Late Registration	4 minutes ago		7:28
10		3005 Childish Gambino	Because the Internet	4 minutes ago		3:54