Study Strategies

* Say the information out loud-3 times is the magic number. If students say the information in their head, it doesn’t seem to connect as easily.
* Read the information in to a recording devise-tape recorder, tablet, etc. Play it back while they are in the car, their room, kitchen, etc.
* Create flashcards
* Use Quizlet.com for flashcards, games, and quizzes.
* Rewrite main ideas into own words.
* Review/study with a classmate.
* Try to form an association between the information you must remember and a person, place, object, situation, or emotion.
* Frequently recite the information you must remember or write it several times.
* If you must remember a large body of information, try to break the information into smaller, more manageable categories.  Then work on remembering the information in each category separately.
* Create a graphic organizer for the information you must remember.  It is easier to remember information that is organized than to remember information that seems to be all over the place.
* Try to bring a personal touch to the information you must remember.  Relating the information to something about you will make it easier to remember.
* Try to form a picture in your mind of the information you must remember.  Visual imagery is a powerful tool for remembering.
* Try to apply what you must remember. For example, if you are trying to remember the meanings of some new vocabulary words, use the words in your speaking and writing.
* Test yourself.  A good way to do this is to write a question about the information you must remember on the front side of an index card and the answer to the question on the back. Use as many cards as you need.  Look at the questions, try to answer them, and then check to see how you did.
* To remember a list of facts, try turning them into an acronym or mnemonic.
  + An acronym is a word formed from the initial letters or groups of letters of words in a set phrase or series of words. For instance: WAC stands for Women's Army Corps, OPEC for Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or LORAN for long-range navigation.
  + A mnemonic is something intended to assist the memory, like a verse or formula. For instance, in order to remember the planets (in order) one mnemonic is the sentence:
    - Mark's Very Extravagant Mother Just Sent Us Ninety Parakeets. The first letter in each word stands for a planet: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.
    - King Henry Does Usually Drink Chocolate Milk (Kilo, Hecto, Deka, Unit, Deca, Centi, Milli) for metric system.
* Make flashcards to remember math facts, vocabulary words and their definitions, or events and historical dates.
* Create a rhyming poem to help remember names and dates.   
  + An old favorite is: In fourteen hundred and ninety two Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
* Draw a dramatic or silly picture of the fact to make it particularly memorable.
* In order to remember a larger number of facts, play the game of "Memory".
  + To play, you need index cards, a pen or pencil, and 2 or more players.
  + Make the first card by putting a question on one side of it such as "Who is the current President of the United States?"
  + Make a second card with the answer to the question on it: "President William Jefferson Clinton".
  + Make enough pairs of cards to keep the game interesting.
  + Shuffle the cards and place them face down on a table or floor.
  + In order to play, each contestant picks up a card and tries to match it with its correct counterpart. If successful, the contestant keeps the pair of cards and continues taking turns until he/she can no longer make any matches.
  + The player that has the most cards in his/her possession at the end of the game wins.
  + This game works well with cards that match by event and date, facts from the periodic chart, or vocabulary words and definitions.