

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *SAT/COLLEGE PREP CAMP* for students entering grades 9-12 meets for five hours per day, Monday through Friday for a total of 100 hours of intensive instruction and exercises. There are two one-month sessions, and students may attend one of the sessions or both sessions; the tests, vocabulary, writing assignments, and math problem sets are different each month. If spaces are available, students may attend just the SAT Critical Reading & Writing section or just the SAT Math section. Small classes not exceeding eight students allow teachers to tailor sessions to each student's needs. Students are scheduled in groups of approximately the same age and of similar proficiency. Over the course of four weeks, in addition to taking a four-hour assessment test, students complete four to six SAT tests under real testing conditions and additional exercises outside of class, after which they review, analyze, and discuss their errors and weaknesses with their instructors.

While extensive in its scope and goals, the course is paced in such a way that assignments never seem intimidating or overly time-consuming. Our instructors are experienced professionals who bring the standardized test material to life with interesting supplementary materials and proven teaching techniques that lead to quality results. The instruction includes an academic focus (reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking, word problems, algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, etc.), preparing students not only for several standardized tests but also for school, at either the high school or college level.

In addition to developing test-taking and academic skills, students have a structured opportunity to prepare for the college application process. Working alone and in groups, students learn about higher education options. They read and write application essays using real application questions. Teachers also coach their students on how to improve their chances at application success based on their academic profiles, talents, and interests. At the end of each session, parents receive a report on students' overall college preparedness and suggestions for additional academic and non-academic work.

## CRITICAL READING & TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES (1 hour per day; total 20 hours)

Every student receives focused instruction in the Critical Reading portion of the SAT, which includes strategies for tackling sentence completion and critical reading questions and methodical analysis of each student's work on four to six SAT tests. Instructional materials include established texts that clearly present techniques proven to raise scores and provide the foundation for learning advanced vocabulary (approximately 75-100 words per week) and for honing reading and analytic skills.

## WRITING SECTION & COLLEGE PREPARATION (1.5 hours per day; total 30 hours)

The SAT includes a 60-minute writing section (25 min. essay, 35 min. multiple choice). During this one and a half hours of the camp, students receive focused instruction in the writing section of the SAT which includes regular in-class timed practice together with follow-up critiques, a thorough review of grammar and usage, and methodical analysis of each student's work on four to six SAT tests. In addition, students do research and preparation for the college application process by completing step-by-step assignments.

## **MATH SECTION (2.5 hours per day; total 50 hours)**

Mercer Education's rigorous program thoroughly prepares students for the SAT. This includes problem solving techniques typical of the SAT and similar standardized tests. We teach common strategies and tools such as distinguishing between combinations and permutations to count possible outcomes, breaking down a complex problem into simpler parts, and finding ways to organize information presented in a word problem. Course work draws on sample SAT problems and a variety of engaging supplementary materials designed to provide practice with all the commonly encountered questions. In addition, students complete a comprehensive review of all essential skills, ranging from the use of graphing calculators to a review of methods of algebra I & II, geometry, and probability and statistics, and all students receive methodical analysis of their work on four to six SAT tests.

## **A Student's Typical Day (total 5 hours instruction per day; ½ hour lunch break)**

Preparing for the verbal portion of standardized tests involves the integration of multiple language learning areas including reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar. Likewise, the math portion of the SAT touches upon multiple skills and problem types to which each group of students brings different strengths and weaknesses. Because of the overlap of skills and student diversity, the information presented here estimates the time reserved for direct instruction in these areas. Times may vary depending on the needs of the class.

## **CAMP HIGHLIGHTS**

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| ▶ For students entering grades 9-12                | ▶ Thorough review of grammar & usage        |
| ▶ 100 hours of focused instruction                 | ▶ 75-100 words per week                     |
| ▶ Two 4-week sessions available                    | ▶ In-class timed writing practice           |
| ▶ Small classes not exceeding 8 students           | ▶ Hone time management skills               |
| ▶ Highly experienced instructors                   | ▶ Prep for college application process      |
| ▶ Assessment and 4 to 6 complete SAT's             | ▶ Introduction to application essays        |
| ▶ Mock SAT administered under real test conditions | ▶ Review all essential math skills          |
| ▶ Additional exercises outside of class            | ▶ Math problem solving techniques           |
| ▶ Honing of academic skills                        | ▶ Challenging supplementary materials       |
| ▶ Critical reading strategies                      | ▶ Progress report & suggestions for parents |