



Deerfield Parent Network

“Network Notes”

ACT/SAT Test Preparation: Options, Myths and Facts

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Listen to what the experts have to say:

• Adrienne Brazil – Manager of the High School Program for Stanley Kaplan Tutoring

Stanley Kaplan connects to programs through the high school or community organizations. There are free PSAT and SAT practice tests at the Deerfield Library. Stanley Kaplan provides a detailed score report after the test is taken in order to get benchmark data.

Each student needs to have goals in mind. What is the dream college? What score is needed to be accepted? Where is the student after the practice exam?

Options:

- Private Tutoring – most comprehensive option, personalized and flexible, an assessment of where the student is academically is done.
- Semi-private Tutoring (3-5 kids in a group) - you put your own group together. Typically a group consists of students with the same goals and schedule. There is a dynamic interaction of working in a small group. It is cheaper than private.
- College Prep Advantage – Best option for student taking both ACT and SAT. For one fee unlimited ACT classes live or online
- Classroom Course – Best for student only taking one test (ACT or SAT). Provides classroom and online instruction. Students can work in small groups with others at same level
- Online Prep – It’s a “classroom anywhere”. This is like a college level course – real time, live. Student works online and can chat “live” with instructor.
- On Demand – for the independent and highly motivated student. Student signs up online and works on his/her own time frame.

• Sarah Glazier – One-on-One Tutoring

Benefits of working with an individual tutor:

- Focus is on one student at a time and his/her needs and questions.
- Customized curriculum is based on the student’s needs – which subjects within the test to focus on, when to take the test and how many times, subject-based skills to increase score in each particular section, test-taking strategies, and strategies to reduce anxiety.
- Flexible scheduling – once/week, twice/week, every other week, etc., and can schedule different times each week depending on student’s activities or work schedules.
- No set number of sessions – depends on student’s needs and goals.



Deerfield Parent Network

“Network Notes”

ACT/SAT Test Preparation: Options, Myths and Facts

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

•Beth Ahlgrim – DHS Study Strategies Teacher

Study Strategies is a 1 semester course at DHS open to all Juniors (available both semesters)
It counts as an English elective

Offered early bird and 2 other times – only meets 2x/week – (for example, opposite chemistry lab)
The required binder is sold in the bookstore.

Class is taught by English teachers, and some math teachers.

Purpose of Study Strategies - to acquaint student with the ACT and practice taking tests. Students take diagnostic test on 1st day. Scores are not published. They practice skills that need more development, then retake the test. Essay writing is also practiced – students will learn the process of how to deconstruct the prompt and write an argumentative essay.

After the Prairie State Achievement Exam (which includes the ACT) in April (every Junior will take this, mandated by the state of Illinois) students will practice with college applications and the college essay process.

•Patsy J. Prince – Owner of Academic Tutoring Center of Highland Park

The ACT is a curriculum-based test (in areas of math, science, reading and English). Students must have the ability to work under pressure. They must have thinking skills, which will mature as they receive more education.

Students should practice, but every student is different. It is important to recognize the student’s strengths and weaknesses and strategize.

Students should expect to complete practice homework in preparation for the ACT. Feedback and strategy must be changed continually. Preparation needs to fit the student’s leaning style.

7-8 weeks before the test is a good time to begin intense tutoring. Individualized test prep should lead up to the test.

Build endurance and decrease anxiety.