

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

**SUCCESS!** Learning Center  
*presents*

# THE SPOT

August 28, 2008

No. 25

## **PSAT at High Schools**

*Saturday, October 18, 2008*

The PSAT (preliminary SAT) provides excellent practice for the SAT Reasoning test. It also gives 11th-graders a chance to compete for National Merit scholarships.

The PSAT is a standardized test prepared by the College Board and is very similar to their SAT Reasoning test accepted by many colleges. This test measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills.

The PSAT is offered only once each year and is administered by high schools, not by College Board testing centers. Students must register for and pay (usually \$20 or less) at their high school. There is no online registration.

Most counselors recommend that all college-bound students take the PSAT in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades in order to receive feedback on skills necessary for college study. This test helps students prepare for the SAT under test conditions and become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions they will see on the SAT.

Scores on the PSAT enable students to compare their performance on an admissions test with others applying to college.

Success! Learning Center has PSAT practice tests for those interested in a little extra preparation. You can also find practice materials online: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

## **Now Enrolling**

*After-School Session Begins September 8th*

*Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs ❖ 3:00-6:00 p.m.*

*Tues & Thurs Evenings ❖ 6:30-9:30 p.m.*

The After-School Session begins September 8th. Each tutorial period runs for three hours; students may attend two or more tutorials per week.

During the school year we concentrate especially on helping students understand their coursework, complete homework accurately, and prepare for tests. Additional enrichment activities or supplementary skills practice is also available (see page 2).

Fees are paid every four weeks. The tuition for a student who attends two days per week is \$248, three days per week is \$308, and four days per week is \$368. A discount is available for families. Limited scholarships are available for those in financial need. Please see the Director for more information.

## **Success! Learning Center**

*a non-profit educational and tutoring center*

**Tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance for students in grades 4-12**

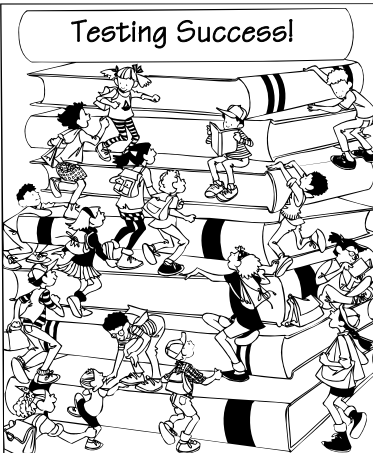
**Director:** Cliveden Chew Haas

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## Preparing for Standardized Testing

Standardized testing, such as the STAR tests given in the spring, tests students' general and specific knowledge. Those students who have thoroughly mastered the school curriculum should always score well on standardized tests.

In order to successfully prepare for standardized testing, students must first understand and absorb classroom material. Knowing the subject is not enough, however; the successful test-taker must also recall information quickly and accurately during the timed test.

Good readers tend to be good students. Students who read well have much larger vocabularies and a far wider range of knowledge than students who read below grade level. Improving reading skills, mastering new vocabulary, and learning to use texts more effectively all strengthen school scores in general, including standardized testing scores.

Good readers also tend to be good writers. Students who read every day absorb the rhythms and structure of writing correctly and effectively simply by reading all those thousands and tens of thousands of sentences. Good writing sounds natural to them and they easily grasp the formal rules of academic essays.

Curiously enough, good readers are even good math students. Good readers use language well and understand their textbooks. They are more able to grasp what the teacher is saying and can use their verbal skills to summarize important points, analyze new problems, and ask for help when they need it. Most importantly, good readers are used to concentrating their minds for extended periods of time and know how to focus on the printed page.

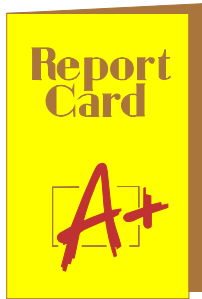
Beyond improving reading skills, reviewing earlier material, keeping the basics sharp, and working in an enrichment program all help students to remember what they have previously learned and to build strong foundations for advanced classes.

During the After-School Session, students at Success! Learning Center have the option of spending part of each tutoring session working in specific subjects such as reading or preparing for standardized or college tests. Our low student-teacher ratio and individualized curriculum allow us to design an individual program for each student. Please speak with the Director for more information.

### Shakespeare for Everyone!

[www.shadyshakes.com](http://www.shadyshakes.com) *or* [www.sfshakes.org](http://www.sfshakes.org)

*Watching Shakespeare live is absolutely wonderful—spirited, engaging, and hysterically funny. It's also vitally important for students of all ages. So, turn off the television, shut down the computer, bundle up the kids, and head for Sanborn-Skyline Park. Enjoy either production—Twelfth Night has shipwreck and disguises and Comedy of Errors is one of the craziest comedies ever written. Performances run through 9/14. Or visit FREE Shakespeare in the Park in the Presidio and see Pericles (heroic adventure and plenty of action) through 9/21. **GO!***



*What is an . . .*

## INDIVIDUALIZED CURRICULUM?

An Individualized Curriculum is a course of study designed specifically for each individual student. In a typical large-class setting with 25–35 pupils, students are forced to work at the pace and intensity of the majority of the group. One student may find the class too slow and rather superficial, another might find the same course too rapid and struggle to master material not fully understood.

Students at Success! Learning Center work in very small groups (usually 3–5 students) with a teacher or teacher aide. Because the instructor has only a few students to monitor, there is plenty of time for personal attention and encouragement. Students receive one-on-one tutoring as needed and progress at their own pace, moving from one level to the next as they are ready.

During the school year, our emphasis is on helping students understand their coursework and complete assigned homework. Enrichment activities, subject review, and standardized testing preparation are also available. Students in each group work individually on their own curriculum, which is adjusted as necessary during the course. Thus one student may be working on language arts, another on advanced math concepts, and a third on improving language arts skills.

During the registration process, parents and students discuss their goals for the class. Once the study subjects and any particular needs have been identified, students may complete a series of placement tests to identify their specific strengths and weaknesses.

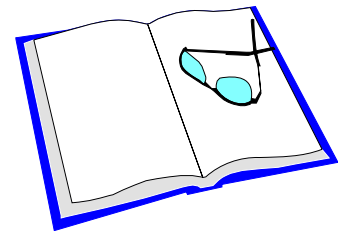
The Director then prepares an individual plan of study for each student, based on his or her particular needs, learning styles, and interests. She works closely with teachers and aides to ensure that the course of study is successful and to make any necessary adjustments.

Parents and students are an important component of any successful study plan, and their input is welcomed throughout the class.

At the end of the session, we prepare a detailed Final Report summarizing the progress achieved by each student and discussing any other pertinent material.

## LEARNING CENTER STAFF

Cliveden Chew Haas, M.A., the Learning Center Director, is credentialed to teach academic high school subjects. Originally studying science as a pre-med major, she completed degrees in English Literature, with additional training in English as a Second Language and learning disabilities. Cliveden brings extensive experience in various areas of education and a contagious enthusiasm for learning.



Our teaching aides are extremely successful college and high school students who are also skilled instructors. They enjoy sharing their talents and their knowledge.