

SUCCESS! Learning Center

presents

THE SPOT

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

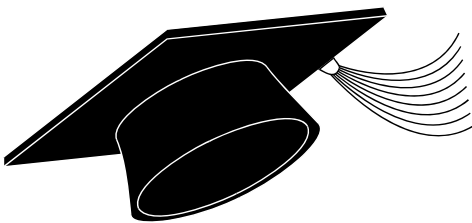
August 7, 2009

No. 27

How High an SAT Score?

The current SAT I has math, reading, and writing scores, each on a scale of 200-800. Colleges and universities are far more interested in students' cumulative GPA, their college prep and advanced classes, and teacher recommendations, than in the SAT score. SAT scores are important, but they are not the most important item in a college application. A student's GPA and writing ability will generally count much more.

However, high SAT I scores do show that students test well under pressure and suggest they have the reading and analytical skills necessary to handle college texts. Composition skills are tested in the writing section. One of the best uses of SAT scores for students is to help them find a good college match.



The College Board website at <http://www.collegeboard.com> has a College Search section which is very helpful. Enter the name of a school you are interested in and look over the information offered. Be sure to check out the "SAT, AP" page. It includes SAT score ranges for the middle 50% of first-year students. The new three-part scores are up now, so you can compare your scores with students at colleges you're interested in.

Continued on Page 2

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 class period runs for three hours, and 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 3).

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 3-12

Director: Cliveden Chew Haas

Location: 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas

Phone: (408) 263-9754

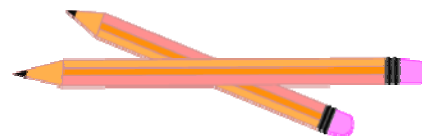
E-mail: success@cliveden.com

Website: www.successlearningcenter.org

SAT Score

Continued from Page 1

Here are a few samples of SAT score ranges:



	Reading	Math	Writing
UC Berkeley	580-710	630-760	600-720
UC Davis	500-630	550-670	510-640
Occidental College	590-690	590-680	590-690
San Jose State University	430-540	450-580	430-530

Remember that 25% of incoming students scored above the high end, and 25% scored below the low figure. Where do you fit? Are your study skills above, below, or in the middle of the range? Will most students in your classes write better than you do, or can you compete? Will you be able to understand and keep up with reading assignments? SAT scores can help you get a sense of the people and their abilities at colleges and universities across the U.S.

PSAT at High Schools

Saturday, October 17, 2009

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 offered only once each year. Students register for and take the test at their high school. There is no online registration. Most high schools will offer the test this year on October 17th. Remember to register early!

We recommend that college-bound students take the PSAT in 10th grade in order to become more familiar with the types of questions and the skills necessary for the SAT. However, it's important that sophomores not be discouraged by low scores—the “real” test is in 11th grade.

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>



Math Help for Struggling Students

Useful Website to Help Students LEARN

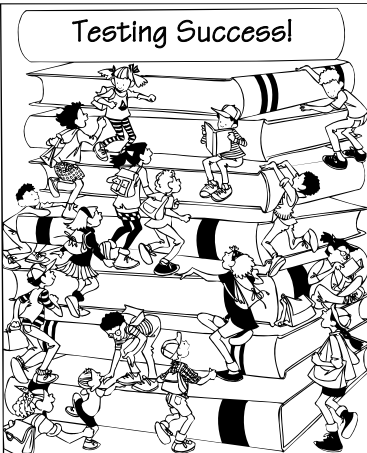
Many students struggle in math because they focus on getting the “right” answer instead of concentrating on understanding and applying the math relationships. Such students have poor test scores because they have memorized techniques but don't know when and how to apply them. The following websites will help students struggling to learn math. They don't necessarily provide quick answers, but they do provide explanations, tutorials, guided practice, and math games.

AOL@school elementary math resources <http://kids.aol.com/homework-help/math>

Fact Monster Homework Center <http://www.factmonster.com/homework/hwmath.html>

A+ Math Homework Helper http://www.aplusmath.com/Homework_Helper/index.html

Webmath <http://www.webmath.com/>



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.

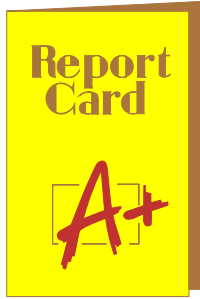
Beyond improving reading skills, reviewing earlier material, keeping the basics sharp, and working in an enrichment program all help students to remember what they have previously learned and to build strong foundations for advanced classes.

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 *or* 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—As You Like It has adventure and disguises, and Richard III is one of the greatest villains ever written. Performances run through 9/13. Or visit FREE Shakespeare in the Park in the Presidio and see Comedy of Errors (juggling, slapstick and two sets of mixed-up twins) through 9/20 So, G-G-O-O-O, already!



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.

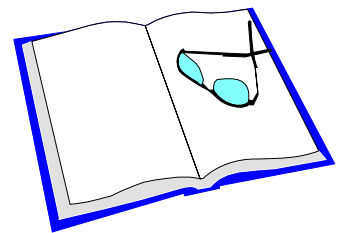
During the school year, our emphasis is on helping students understand their coursework and complete assigned homework. Enrichment activities, subject review, and standardized testing preparation are also available. Students in each group work individually on their own curriculum, which is adjusted as 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.

Mark Gaare is a credentialed elementary teacher with experience in language arts, math, social studies, science, and other topics. Students enjoy his active and supportive teaching style.

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