

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

**SUCCESS!** Learning Center

*presents*

# THE SPOT

April 2014

No. 38

## **10 Steps for Helping Your Child with Homework**

*Compiled by SLC teachers*

**1. PLACE:** Set up a place that will always be used for studying and homework. This place will *not* be in front of any computer, TV or entertainment console.

**2. QUIET TIME:** Make homework time the “quiet time” for everyone in the home. Minimize or eliminate things that will distract the child such as loud music, TVs, pets, visitors, vacuuming, parties, etc. Try to have “quiet time” at the same time every day. This is an excellent time for family members to do their bills, or read books, magazines, or newspapers. If there is no quiet place, the child will not be able to succeed in doing homework.

If no quiet place exists inside the home, a child may even be able to work outside, at the library, or in a parked car with the doors locked and windows rolled down (as long as it is safe for them to do so).

**3. DISTRACTIONS:** If the child has trouble working independently and cannot be supervised, hide all electronic devices or lock them in a room, car, toolbox, etc. This includes cell-phones, remote controls, and handheld games. Put passwords on your computers, and make sure the child does not learn the password.

**4. ORGANIZE:** Help them get organized. Locate all their assignments, and lay those papers side-by-side on a table.

**5. PRIORITIZE:** Teach your child how to prioritize assignments. We recommend that the student select and complete the assignment that

is the most difficult *first*. Do the hardest work first (while their brains are still fresh and energetic). The easiest assignments should be done last.

**6. DIVIDE/SIMPLIFY:** Break long assignments into small, doable parts. Have the child create a list of all the parts that make up a long assignment. After an item has been completed, cross it off the list. Let your child take 5-minute breaks between assignments.

**7. PRAISE:** Praise your child’s effort, not just successes.

**8. NO BRIBERY:** Do not bribe your child to do homework. Let the child know that it’s part of the work that everyone has to do, similar to chores and cleaning up. Just like parents must work in and out of the home, children have their own work to contribute to the family, and that is homework.

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### **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](mailto:success@cliveden.com)

**Website:** [www.successlearningcenter.org](http://www.successlearningcenter.org)

## Summer Session

*June 16-July 31, 2014*  
*Classes Meet Monday through Thursday*

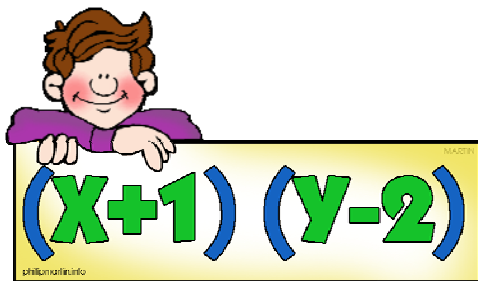


Applications for our seven-week Summer Session are now being accepted. Success! Learning Center is a non-profit educational and tutoring center, and we are committed to serving our community by offering high-quality academic instruction at the lowest tuition possible. See page 3 for schedule and fees.

Of course, at these low rates it is not possible for us to offer any discount for days missed. If you know your family vacation plans in advance, we will plan to schedule your student(s) for make-up days in another class.

Please note that classes meet four days per week, Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes), for a total of 63 hours of instruction over the seven-week session. Our class times are 8:00-10:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., and 1:30-3:30 p.m. We offer a discount for students taking multiple classes or for family members enrolled in the same session.

Our classrooms are led by experienced, credentialed teachers, and our T.A.s are highly-



skilled college and high school students who enjoy sharing their knowledge. We maintain a very low teacher/student ratio of 1 to 4.

Each year several Learning Center classes fill completely before June. Our individualized curriculum and extremely low student-teacher ratio (one teacher or teacher aide for every four students) limit the number of spaces available in our learning groups. Be sure to register early!

Courses include our popular **Math Workshop** focusing on intensive practice of math and logic skills. This workshop helps struggling students master skills appropriate to their grade level and prepare for the next year. Curriculum includes daily homework, recall and review, and a strong emphasis on basic skills as a foundation for academic success.

The **Summer Writing Workshop** offers individual and small group work with an experienced teacher. Daily essays and other language arts assignments teach students to write clear, concise, and effective compositions. Strong preparation for AP and Honors classes.

Don't forget our **Summer Shakespeare, Introduction to Geometry, Beginning Calculus, SAT Test Preparation, Reading Comprehension**, and many other class offerings. Our Individualized Curriculum lets us prepare an individual course of study for each student focusing on particular needs.

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## 10 Steps for Helping Your Child with Homework

*Continued from Page 1*

**9. INDEPENDENCE:** Encourage your child to do his or her own work. A parent can help clarify questions, give hints, or ask the child leading questions, but do not provide the answers. When students don't know how to solve a certain problem, they need to go back

and tell that to their teacher. Don't have them try to guess the correct answer.

**10. COORDINATE:** Check regularly with your child's teachers to make sure assignments are getting turned in

# Test-Taking Tips

compiled by Mark Gaare

## 1. STUDY

No one likes bad surprises, and everyone has some fear of the unknown. Ask your teacher what will be on the upcoming test. Then, the more you review this material, the fewer surprises will be on the test.

## 2. RELAX YOUR BODY

Tension in your body can prevent your brain from performing at its best. Before a test, take 3 deep breaths, long and slow. Try to make your breaths as long as possible. Then curl your toes 3 times. Take off your shoes and stretch your toes back towards your chest. Clench your fists as tight as you can, then slowly release them. Finally, grit your teeth hard and hold them for a few seconds. As you release, take a well-deserved yawn!

## 3. EXPRESS YOUR THOUGHTS

Before a test, take 5 minutes to write down all of your feelings and thoughts. No one else will see this document except for you. You can keep it, or throw it away later. Write what you are feeling about the test. Scientific research has proven that this is an effective way to minimize stress and let your brain perform at its best.

## 4. THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR...

...is fear itself, said Winston Churchill. Practice taking very short quizzes. Have your friends quiz you about things that you already know. If you do this, then taking tests will become a little less frightening. It's okay to get butterflies. Try to turn those feelings into a positive adventure.

## 5. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Ask yourself, "What's the worst thing that can happen after I take this test?" What has happened in the past? Will you be punished? Will you get expelled? Once you've answered these questions honestly, you can proceed to study or make some other plan for taking the upcoming test.



## Class Schedule & Fees

### 7-Week Summer Session June 16-July 31, 2014

*Please Note: Classes meet Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes)*

Class #1: 8:00–10:15 a.m.

Class #2: 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Class #3: 1:30–3:30 p.m.



### Class #1 or #2 (63 hours)

\$676.00 (two payments of \$338 each, second payment due 7/14/14)

**OR \$608 paid in advance** (10% discount)

*Two or more students in same family*

*Or multiple classes (same student)*

*\$61.00 discount per additional student or class*

### Class #3 (56 hours)

\$600.00 (two payments of \$300 each, second payment due 7/14/14)

**OR \$540 paid in advance** (10% discount)

*Two or more students in same family*

*Or multiple classes (same student)*

*\$54.00 discount per additional student or class*

## Crowdfunded!

U.S. News and World Report reports in *Best Colleges 2014 Edition* that students can now raise funds the way business startups do, through Crowdfunding. Websites such as GoFundMe.com, Kickstarter, and Indiegogo enable students to appeal for help to friends and strangers. Fees such as GoFundMe's 5 percent per donation are common.

Although Crowdfunding is most commonly used by startup companies looking to raise cash for their businesses, education is now the second most popular category on the GoFundMe site. According to the article, overall crowdfunding platforms raised \$2.7 billion worldwide in 2012 and are expected to hit \$5.1 billion this year. Whew! That's a lot of \$\$\$!

In fact, parents can now start crowdfunding before their students enter school. GradSave.com and Give-College.com are two websites tied into 529 savings plans (see box). Parents can use these sites to solicit donations to college savings accounts. Sites vary, but generally parents are expected to aim to fill the gap between what they can obtain in federal and school-based aid and what they will still need to make tuition payments.

## College Savings Plans

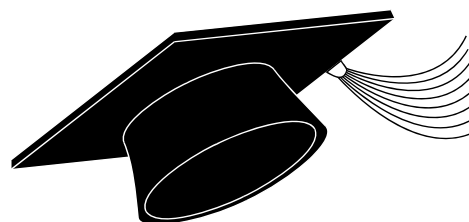
Information from <http://collegesavingsbank.net/>

*College Savings Bank manages 529 plans in Arizona, Montana, and Indiana open to all residents of the U.S. There are many other savings plans managers to choose from.*

529 college savings plans are state and federal tax-advantaged savings plans designed to encourage families to save for future college costs.

Assets may be used for eligible college expenses: tuition, fees, room board, textbooks, school supplies, etc. Any U.S. taxpayer can open a 529 plan for ANYONE – including, yourself! Account owners do not need to live in the state sponsoring their 529 plans, since most do not have state residency requirements. Family and friends can contribute to an existing 529 college savings account. If the child does not go to college, the beneficiary can be changed, although certain restrictions apply.

Discuss college savings plans with your financial advisor for more information.



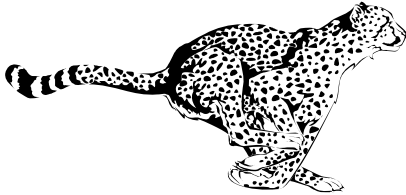
## Check Out These 10 Unique Scholarships in 2014

<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/the-scholarship-coach/2014/01/09/target-these-10-unique-scholarships-in-2014>

The Scholarship Coach at U.S. News & World Report (url above) has some great information for aspiring college students and their families. Check out their list of "10 Unique Scholarships in 2014" for ideas on the sorts of specialized, individual programs that are looking for the right students to fund. The Intertek Scholarship Program for aspiring engineers and the Gates Millennium Scholars Program are quite straight forward. But how about the Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship Contest, The Toyota Teen Driver Video Challenge (video public service announcements on teen driving safety), and the National Parks Conservation Scholarship? For just the right students, these unique programs can offer a doorway to scholarship help.

Scholarship America.org has lots of good ideas and information in their blogs.

Remember to start your scholarship search early in order to learn about some of the lesser-known scholarship opportunities. 10th grade is not too soon to be learning the ropes and finding out how to seek for outside support for your college career.



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## 2014 Summer Deposit

*Yes! We want to register for the 2014 Summer Session. I have enclosed a \$100.00 deposit for each student listed to register in the indicated class(es).*

### **Student:**

_____	_____	_____
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
_____	MALE   FEMALE	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 COL.
SCHOOL NOW ATTENDING	(CIRCLE ONE)	(CIRCLE 2014-15 GRADE)
IS ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER ATTENDING THE 2014 SUMMER SESSION? YES _____ NO _____		
IF YES, LIST NAME(S) & GRADE(S) _____		
_____		

### **Parent:**

PARENT:	MR./ MS.	_____	_____	( ) _____
GUARDIAN	(circle one)	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DAYTIME PHONE NO.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HOME ADDRESS NUMBER & STREET	APT. #	CITY & ZIP CODE		
( ) _____				
HOME PHONE NUMBER				

### **Schedule:** June 16-July 31, 2014

- Class #1:    \_\_\_ 8:00–10:15 a.m.
- Class #2:    \_\_\_ 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
- Class #3:    \_\_\_ 1:30–3:30 p.m.



**Deposit:** *Please enclose \$100.00 per student as your deposit for the 2014 Summer Session. The balance of the fee is due no later than June 16th if you wish to claim the 10% discount for paying in advance. Please mail to:*

***Success! Learning Center, P.O. Box 361195, Milpitas CA 95036-1195***