

SUCCESS! Learning Center

presents

THE SPOT

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

August 2014

No. 39

College Board Announces Changes in the SAT

New PSAT Also Planned

As seems to happen every decade or so, the College Board is redesigning the SAT test taken by many high school students as part of their application process for college.

The new test will be given starting in spring 2016. The SAT is generally taken at the end of the 11th-grade year, so those students now in 11th and 12th grades will take the current test. Students now in 10th grade (and students 9th grade and below) will take the new test when it begins in spring 2016.

The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) is given only once each year on the third Saturday in October. It is aimed at 11th-grade students as practice for the SAT in the spring, and it is also the qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships. Like so many teachers, we encourage 10th grade students with good reading skills to also take the PSAT for additional practice. The new PSAT, similar to the new SAT, will be given starting in October 2015. The PSAT given this year will be the current test. (See Page 2 for more information.)

The College Board is also partnering with Khan Academy to prepare new practice materials for
(Continued on Page 2)



Now Enrolling

After-School Session Begins September 2nd

Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs ❖ 3:00-6:00 p.m.

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

The After-School Session begins Sept. 2nd. Each class period runs for three hours, and students may attend two, three, or four tutorials each week. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling the office (see below).

During the school year we concentrate especially on helping students understand their coursework, complete homework accurately, and prepare for tests. Additional enrichment activities, supplementary skills practice, and math and English tutoring are also available.

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.

Rates and fees are explained on Page 3.

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

SLC Tuition

10% Discount for Full Semester Paid in Advance

Fees for the after-school session are paid every four weeks, usually the first week of the month. Classes are scheduled from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. The tuition for a student who attends two days per week (24 hours total tutoring in four weeks) is \$288 per month, three days per week is \$360, and four days is \$432. A discount is available for families.



Some months, such as December and February, have only three weeks of teaching due to school vacations, and parents thus pay only three weeks of tuition. Check the complete 2014-2015 calendar including holidays and payment schedule online at www.successlearningcenter.org (click on “2014/2015 After-School Session”), or pick up a copy of the calendar at the Learning Center.

This year we are again offering a semester pre-pay. Several parents have asked if they can receive a discount for paying the entire semester at once, and we’re happy to oblige. It’s a lot easier on everyone when there is only one payment to deal with. We’ve warmed up the calculators and figured out the numbers. The Fall Semester runs from 9/2/14-1/29/15, a total of 19 weeks. We are offering a 10% discount when the entire semester is paid in advance. A student attending two times each week will pay a total of \$1,368.00 when the monthly fees are added up; the discounted rate is \$1,231.00 paid in advance. A similar 10% discount applies for students attending three times and four times each week.

Success! Learning Center is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Donations are gladly accepted to help underwrite our educational program. Limited scholarships are available for those in financial need. Please see the Director for more information.

Improving English Language Skills

*Success! Learning Center offers English writing, grammar, vocabulary, and reading practice.
Lessons are adjusted to the individual student’s needs and weaknesses.
Includes daily composition and grammar practice, pronunciation, and language effectiveness.
Strengthens speaking and listening skills; improves reading and writing skills.
Students may also work on study skills and note-taking exercises.
Also available for ELD (English Language Development) and bi-lingual students.*

Math Workshop

*Practice classroom skills
Learn new math subjects
Enrichment and review*

*Word problems and turning English into math
Analytical thinking plus creative problem-solving
Elementary topics include telling time, handling money,
fraction, decimals, place value, and math manipulatives
High School topics include algebra and geometry
through trigonometry and calculus*



Reading Resources

Is your student having serious problems learning to read? Here are two good resources for any parent concerned about reading. Audio books help all students read at a higher level, including students who are English learners, students who need more reading practice, and students diagnosed as dyslexic.

You can find more reviews at Bright Solutions for Dyslexia. Click on the "More Info" link and then on "Dyslexia Newsletters." Lots of good information and resources for helping all struggling students learn to read: <http://www.brightsolutions.us/>

Remember that our Milpitas library has many audio books available, too. Many, many students benefit from and greatly enjoy listening to the audio book while they read the text. A great idea for both free reading and school assignments.

Excerpt from **Study shows audio books help dyslexic students succeed**
Published December 8, 2011
on www.granitebaymirror.com

For some students, trying hard just isn't enough. These students may be at a disadvantage because of widespread learning differences such as dyslexia or because of visual impairments. Studies show that for these students to succeed, an online audio library of textbooks and literature titles can make all the difference.



Research by Johns Hopkins University and case studies in the Baltimore City Public Schools showed significant improvements in students who use audio books. Reading comprehension improved by 76 percent, content acquisition by 38 percent, reading accuracy by 52 percent and self-confidence by 61 percent.

Learning Ally (formerly Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic) offers the world's most advanced library of accessible audio books. Parents can get an individual membership for their child. Institutional memberships are available for schools and districts.

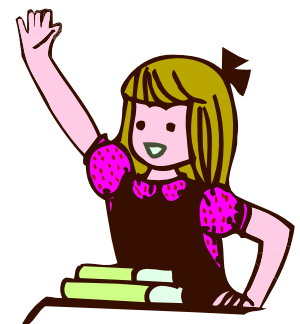
To read the entire article: www.dys-add.com/resources/RecentResearch/AudioBooksStudy.pdf

To apply for audio books: www.LearningAlly.org

New Book - Essentials of Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention

Essentials of Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention
by Nancy Mather and Barbara J. Wendling
published November 2011 by Wiley

This clear and concise book provides an in-depth look at dyslexia along with information that will prepare school psychologists, neuropsychologists, and educational diagnosticians to recognize, assess, and provide effective treatment programs for dyslexia. This book is also a good resource for parents or teachers who are helping a child with dyslexia.



Susan Barton feels this new book, which quotes the latest research, is a "must have" and should be on every professional's bookshelf, right next to Dr. Sally Shaywitz's book, *Overcoming Dyslexia*.

To order from Wiley: www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470927607.html