

# 2020 Mercer Education Summer Camp FAQ's

*For Camps only (for Private and Group Classes, see ME Summer Classes FAQ's)*

**Detailed Information** – Mercer Education (ME) has offered a variety of summer camps since 2004. Detailed information is available on our website via the “Summer Programs” link on the bottom of our homepage.

**Distance Learning for Camps Using Zoom** – After much thought and consultation with our staff and clients, we decided that, for everyone’s safety, our summer programs this year will be held remotely via Zoom video conferencing software, not in person. Mercer Education transitioned to distance learning in March, and all our classes have been held remotely since then. Although this teaching mode was new and required some adjustments, we have confirmed that we can still deliver an effective and positive experience. We are watching the situation closely and look forward to seeing our families in person again eventually. However, for now, until there is a vaccine available to all and/or there is consensus with our staff and clients that “the coast is clear,” we anticipate a continuation of the current “distance learning” mode, at least through the end of the summer. (6/2020)

**Two 4-Week Sessions** – All of ME’s camps are four weeks long, and there are two sessions when students can attend. There may be accommodations for students who cannot attend the entire four weeks, and we welcome inquiries.

**Third Camp Session** – Depending upon interest, we often hold a “Session 3” for various SAT camps, dates TBD (likely starting on either Monday, 8/3 this year). Please be in touch if you are interested in being on a waitlist for such an option.

**Small Classes, Students Grouped by Level** – ME’s SAT and ACT camps consist of multiple classes limited to 8 students each, and students are grouped according to their levels determined by assessments we have conducted prior to the camp. There are typically multiple groups of students at different levels in each camp session, though ACT camp options are more limited. *Learning Camp* is limited to 6 students per group and fills up quickly. The *College Admissions Prep Camp* is limited to six students **total** and fills up well in advance. Consider applying early if you can; historically, all programs have filled up.

**Partial Camp Enrollment** – Enrollment priority is given to students who are applying to attend a “full” camp (i.e., both verbal and math), though partial enrollment is possible. Students who wish to attend **just half** of ME’s SAT/College Prep Camp or ACT/College Prep Camp, (i.e., just verbal OR just math, math/science) may indicate so by clearly writing “Verbal only” or “Math only” as well as schedule preferences (“AM” or “PM”, i.e., 9:30am-12pm vs. 12:30-3pm) on page 1 of the application. However, ME requires scheduling flexibility in order to group students effectively according to their respective levels and cannot make firm guarantees in advance regarding schedules or availability of this option. Students enrolled for just half of the program will be invoiced at 60% of the tuition rate of those attending the full program and will be informed of their class schedules in the week prior to the commencement of the camps. *(Note: When students apply for partial enrollment and our SAT or ACT camp program has already almost filled up, we often can accommodate such requests but will need to outline enrollment options by email and work out details in written communication to avoid misunderstandings. The same holds true for complicated requests (e.g., attending the first 2 weeks of Session I and the last 2 weeks of Session II): we will always try to accommodate such requests, but we will have to spell out enrollment options clearly by email to avoid miscommunication or misunderstanding.)*

**Learning Camp** – ME’s Learning Camp is smaller overall than ME’s SAT programs, typically with just one group each of students entering 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade. With enrollment capped at just 6 students per group, Learning Camp therefore tends to fill up early. Unlike our other camp programs, which will take place pretty much as originally envisioned (though now via **Zoom** video conferencing software), ME’s *Learning Camp* program has had to be adjusted in order to work in these new pandemic circumstances. To start, five hours in front of a computer is not health or realistic for younger students. In addition, the Lego robotics component of the program is not easily adjusted to work remotely. As such, the Learning Camp will be slightly different as follows: 1) Learning Camp will be conducted remotely with 2.5hr of Language Arts and a 1-hour math option (no Lego robotics). 2) The camp was originally scheduled for 5 hours per day, and charges will be prorated based on the original, posted rate, i.e., \$1350. 3) The verbal portion, at 2.5 hours daily, equals 50% of the time, i.e., \$675. 4) The optional math portion, at 1 hour daily, is 20% of the originally scheduled time, or \$270. 5) For those who want to attend both, that would be \$945 not including books. (6/2020)

**Homework** – High school students enrolled in ME’s SAT, ACT, and *College Admissions Prep* camps will have homework assigned and should budget several hours per night (typically 3-4 for SAT and ACT) outside of class. *Learning Camp* assignments are much more modest and somewhat flexible but will also entail some out-of-class reading and writing.

**Independence Day** – Mercer Education is closed for Independence Day. We observe the holiday on the actual day – July 4<sup>th</sup> – and do not schedule classes on that day. When July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, Mercer Education will NOT be closed on a Friday or Monday but instead will conduct classes Monday through Friday without interruption.

**Tuition Due Date & Additional Costs** – Tuition is due in full (cash or check only) one week prior to the first day of the camp session in which the student is enrolled (50% up front to reserve a space in the camp and the remainder one week prior to the first day of classes). The cost of textbooks and materials is not included in the listed tuition costs and will be included on each student’s invoice. Learning Camp students will be invoiced separately for math books.

**Course Materials Pick Up** – In general, parents/students will need to come to our office to get the course materials prior to the start of camp. We will coordinate for a safe, socially distanced handoff of materials – curbside handoff – so that you do not even need to enter the building. In some cases, books may be purchased through Amazon or other sources, but in many cases the materials (e.g., the grammar book which we wrote and use in our SAT and ACT camps) are not available elsewhere. We will contact all enrollees to coordinate the handoff.

**Limited Spaces** – Enrollment in ME’s summer camps is limited, so submit your application as early as possible to save a space.