

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *ADVANCED SAT/VERBAL PREP CAMP* is for students who wish to raise their high-level performance on the SAT to the highest level. Designed primarily for students entering grades 11 and 12, the class meets remotely via Zoom for 2.5 hours per day from 3:30-6pm, twice a week (either M/Th or T/F) for four weeks, a total of 20 hours\*\* of instruction and exercises. There are two one-month sessions, and students may attend just the first session, just the second session, or both. Enrollment is limited to students who have already scored at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile ranking of students who have taken the SAT. This means that qualifying students must either provide a copy of recent SAT test results from a testing organization (ETS or other test center) for which they received a verbal score of 640 or higher OR meet those same criteria on an SAT assessment test provided by Mercer Education. Students are scheduled in groups of approximately the same proficiency, and the small classes, not exceeding eight students, allow teachers to attend more fully to each student's needs. Over the course of four weeks, students complete the verbal portions of six SAT tests and have the opportunity to take one complete test under testing conditions similar to those of the real SAT.

The curriculum in this course provides a challenging, integrative approach to mastering grammar rules, strengthening reading skills, advancing essay analysis and revision ability, and gaining a complete understanding of test-taking strategies. Additional emphasis is placed on building impressive vocabulary, broadening range of reading material, and cultivating insightful analysis and discussion. Students continue to strengthen time management skills, take multiple tests, identify areas of weakness, and receive feedback and score analysis from experienced instructors. At the end of each session, parents receive a progress report appraising student's work in the course and offering suggestions for additional academic improvement.

## ADVANCED READING (APPROXIMATELY 1.25 HOUR EACH CLASS; TOTAL 10 HOURS)

Every student receives focused instruction in the Reading Test of the SAT with strategies for tackling critical reading questions, which test students on grasp of main ideas, finding and remembering details, words in context, making inferences, paraphrasing, command of evidence and paired passages. Advanced instructional materials include texts that clearly present techniques proven to raise scores; they also include essays and newspaper and journal pieces that provide the foundation for learning advanced vocabulary (approximately 350 words) and honing reading and analytic skills.

\* SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, Mercer Education's website, products or services.

\*\* The camp only very rarely meets for 17 hours in ME's first session because of the school closing for Independence Day (7/4), but the course content and tuition rates are the same.

## **ADVANCED WRITING AND LANGUAGE (APPROXIMATELY 1.25 HOURS EACH CLASS; TOTAL 10 HOURS)**

The SAT includes a Writing and Language Test, which tests students on writing mechanics and conventions, grammar, punctuation, and the logical expression of ideas in an essay. During this portion of the camp, students receive focused instruction in the Writing and Language Test of the SAT, with thorough review of grammar and usage, diction, logical progression of ideas, sentence combining and a range of SAT-specific questions such as “infographics.” Students complete several SAT Writing and Language Tests with methodical analysis of the skills being tested while tracking errors to identify areas of weakness and focus out-of-class work to maximize test scores.

## **A STUDENT’S TYPICAL DAY (TOTAL 2.5 HOURS INSTRUCTION EACH CLASS, TWICE A WEEK)**

Preparing for the verbal portion of standardized tests involves the integration of multiple language learning areas including reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar to which each group of students brings different strengths and weaknesses. Because of this overlap of skills and student diversity, times dedicated to various components may vary depending on the needs of the class.

- ▶ Extensive SAT Practice with focus on time management and test-taking strategies
  
- ▶ Systematic Paragraph Revision practice with focus on logic, transitions, and cohesion
  
- ▶ Comprehensive Grammar Review with focus on sentence error correction
  
- ▶ Extensive Vocabulary Building (300+ words) with focus on vocabulary in context
  
- ▶ Methodical Test Analysis with focus on identification of areas of weakness in need of review
  
- ▶ Supplemental advanced reading and exercises for maximizing test results