

Dear Parents and Students,

To facilitate fall scheduling and maximize your chance of securing your preferred tutor and time slot, we are sending this newsletter about the classes we offer and how enrollment works. See below and over for details, and do get us your application as soon as possible in the coming weeks!

## PRIVATE CLASSES

Mercer Education offers private classes year-round in multiple subjects, and students can sign up on a “rolling admission” basis virtually any time of the year and continue as long as they want in 2-month increments.

**PRIVATE CLASSES** – As usual, we offer private tutorials (one student, one teacher) in multiple subjects including [College Application Assistance](#), [SAT/ACT test prep](#), [AP/IB test prep \(multiple subjects\)](#), [English](#), [Mathematics](#), [Chemistry](#), [Physics](#), [History](#), [Language Arts](#), and [ESL](#).

**NEW PROGRAM! RESEARCH & TERM PAPER WRITING** This course is taught by veteran instructor George Herland, the former head of the upper division at Lakeside School, and offers students a unique opportunity to do a “deep dive” into the subject of their choice. Designed primarily for high school upperclassmen preparing lengthier writing assignments for rigorous classes such as AP US History (the 2000 word “Research Paper”) and the IB Diploma (the 4000 word “Extended Essay”), this private tutorial provides guidance and support to students at all stages of preparation so that they can pace themselves and craft their essays with expert, professional guidance.

## SMALL GROUP CLASSES

Mercer Education offers small group classes year-round in multiple subjects. Group classes meet once a week, and students can sign up on a “rolling admission” basis virtually any time of the year and continue as long as they want in 2-month increments to achieve their desires goals.

**COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY WRITING** (limited to 6 high school seniors) This course, taught by Eric Cohen, Mercer Education’s director, and Eric Flesher, PhD, veteran ME senior instructor, focuses exclusively on completion of application essays and is intended for high school seniors who are already narrowing the list of colleges to which they will apply and want help just with application essays. See course description for details.

**LANGUAGE ARTS** LA Group classes (capped at no more than 6 students) meet once a week and are attractively priced (\$43/1’50” class). The program includes an assessment free of charge, after which students are matched in groups according to level and availability. Students read novels, write essays, and work with other materials to improve writing ability, reading comprehension, grammar fundamentals, and vocabulary.

**NEW PROGRAM! LANGUAGE ARTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** For the first time, ME is offering our LA group class at the high school level. This course will broadly follow the outline for our LA group classes at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade levels though cater to more advanced students and focus more on literary analysis and writing. The program includes a two-year rotation of books (7-8 novels per year) so that students can continue for two full years without repetition of course material. Classes are capped at 8 students max.

**NEW PROGRAM! WRITING FUNDAMENTALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** ME is now offering a group class focused exclusively on writing. This course provides high school students with a weekly opportunity to engage in the full writing process and receive in-depth, extended guidance and feedback from a highly qualified and experienced writing teacher. The class focuses on a step-by-step approach to systematically teach and explicitly model strategies for writing expository essays. Students engage in the full-writing process with each assignment from brainstorming ideas to planning, organizing, drafting and revising with the ultimate goal of becoming independent, self-guided, competent writers.

**SAT VERBAL** and **SAT MATH** Our SAT group classes (3-8 students) are designed for effective long-term preparation and taught by experienced, credentialed instructors. Competitively priced at \$55/1'50", these classes tackle all aspects of the SAT, including test-taking strategies and mastery of content. Group class students receive a full SAT assessment free of charge, and classes are scheduled according to student level and availability.

**ACT VERBAL** and **ACT MATH/SCIENCE** – Like our SAT group classes, Mercer Education's ACT group classes (3-8 students) meet once a week for 1 hour and 50 minutes, are designed for long-term preparation, taught by experienced instructors, and competitively priced (\$55/1'50" class). Students receive a full ACT assessment free of charge and are then scheduled based on their levels and availability.

**CALCULUS** and **CHEMISTRY** and **PHYSICS** – Like our SAT group classes, ME's Calculus, Chemistry and Physics group classes (3-8 students) meet once a week for 1 hour and 50 minutes, are designed for long-term preparation, taught by experienced instructors, and competitively priced (\$55/1'50" class). These weekly courses guide students through the more subtle fundamentals to provide a solid understanding of the respective subjects which in school are often presented with focus primarily on their applications. These classes are designed for students who wish to supplement their current calculus, chemistry or physics classes and/or prepare for upcoming AP and IB tests. Priced at \$55 per 1'50", these classes run from September until AP/IB tests are held in the spring.

## ENROLLMENT & SCHEDULING FAQs

**When do fall classes start?** Classes resume with our new fall schedule on Saturday, 9/11/21. (We will not be holding regularly scheduled classes from Sunday, 8/22 through Friday, 9/10, though there may be a few instructors available for classes if you would like to meet with a tutor.)

**Do I need to resubmit an application if I attended at ME over the summer or last year?** Mercer Education generates a new schedule each year based on new student and teacher availability and requires a new application w/each new school year even if a student is a veteran with us from the summer or prior years.

**Should I submit an application now or can I wait until later?** While you can apply at any time (enrollment is on a "rolling admission" basis year round), specific tutors and time slots are more likely be filled up if you wait until after we have already scheduled other students, so we strongly encourage you to submit your application **by Sunday, 8/15/21**. We will be working on the schedule starting in mid-August so that we can update students of their schedules as early as possible prior to our 9/11/21 start date.

**What is the standard enrollment period for classes at Mercer Education?** Unless otherwise indicated, enrollment in ME's classes is for ongoing two-month blocks of pre-scheduled classes (January-February, March-April, etc.). The sessions are based on calendar months, not specific school district calendars. The curriculum in each of our classes is specifically designed to avoid repetition of materials so that students can attend for as long as they want in pursuit of their goals, whether for higher test scores, better grades at school, or simply for the joy and satisfaction of learning.

**How does ME determine student schedules?** **Private class** scheduling at ME is based both on student and teacher availability and our best "guestimate" as to which students and teachers will work well together. No schedules are finalized until we have made a proposal and received an OK from the student/family. The more availability you list on the application, the more likely it is that we can schedule the requested class. **Group classes** are kept small (6 or 8 students depending upon the class) to provide substantial support and attention to all students. At the start of the school year, we do not have a predetermined schedule. Rather, we collect applications and then start multiple groups, often with just two or three students, based on student level and availability. Once classes are underway, we will quickly have a schedule in place, typically with multiple verbal and math groups at various levels throughout the day on both Saturdays and Sundays and some additional groups on weekdays. By submitting your application with your scheduling preferences early, you are more likely to influence how those groups are scheduled, and the more availability you list on the application, the easier it is for us to accommodate your requests.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon and having a productive school year together!