

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *LEARNING CAMP* for students entering grades 3 through 9 meets remotely via Zoom Monday through Friday for 2.5 hours per day for a total of 50 hours* of instruction and exercises over the course of four weeks. There are two 1-month sessions, and students may attend just the first session, just the second session, or both sessions. For students attending both sessions, the second session – using different teaching materials – builds upon what they have learned in the first. Curricula at each level also alternate yearly, so students can attend for two years at the 3rd/4th grade, 5th/6th grade or 7th/8th/9th grade levels without repeating any materials. Students are assessed prior to the start of camp and scheduled in groups of approximately the same age (generally “rising” 3rd/4th, 5th/6th and 7th/8th or 8th/9th graders) and of similar proficiency. Small classes not exceeding eight provide students with plenty of individual attention and opportunities to participate in discussion and activities.

While extensive in its scope and goals, the course is paced in such a way that assignments never seem intimidating or overly time-consuming. Our instructors are experienced professionals who bring the course material to life with interesting activities, supplementary materials, and proven teaching techniques that lead to quality results. The instruction includes an academic focus (reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking, etc.), preparing students both for standardized tests and for school.

LANGUAGE ARTS (2.5 HOURS PER DAY; TOTAL 50 HOURS*)

The Learning Camp is 2.5 hours per day, five days a week with focus on reading (generally one book per week) and writing. Materials and assignments are designed to prepare students for the coming school year. They keep daily journals, engage in group discussions, write and give oral presentations, and help each other to gain a better understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts. Activities include both individual and group projects that push students to use the critical thinking skills necessary to do well on assessments such as the ISEE and SSAT, and they receive instruction in strategies specifically for tackling sentence completion, analogy, and reading comprehension questions.

The focus on the program is to help students make use of critical thinking skills to complete objectives in the areas of reading comprehension, writing, grammar, and vocabulary according to the Washington State Standards as listed by Seattle and Bellevue School Districts. Engaging and fun lessons encourage students to read and respond to grade-level appropriate literature, use different forms of writing to articulate their thoughts, and express themselves using their newly acquired knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Instructional materials include a wide range of established texts that clearly present techniques proven to raise scores on standardized tests. Course materials include age-appropriate novels (generally reading one book per week), short stories, articles and poetry that provide the foundation for learning vocabulary and honing reading, writing, and analytic skills.

* The camp sometimes meets one less day in Session I because of ME's closing for the July 4th holiday, thus affecting total hours, but the curriculum and tuition are the same.