

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings! Mercer Education (ME) is gearing up for the start of the school year, and we look forward to seeing you with us again soon. Our classes – *both IN-PERSON and REMOTE VIA ZOOM* – include test prep, enrichment education, college counseling, and homework help, and you can learn more in the letter below and on our website. Classes begin on Saturday, 9/9/23, and we will be scheduling classes very soon. To maximize your chance of securing your preferred tutor and time slot, **please email us your completed application by August 31**. See below for essential information about the classes we offer at and how enrollment works.

## 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 and other prep (AP and IB homework and test prep in multiple subjects), English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, History, Language Arts, SSAT/ISEE test prep and ESL.

## 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, 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 meet once a week on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The focus of the program is reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary acquisition using a range of effective and engaging materials. Students read classic novels (approximately 7 per year), with each book unit culminating in a writing assignment, which instructors critique and students revise and refine. The program includes a two-year rotation of books so that students can continue through each level of our program without repetition of course material.

Small classes capped at no more than 6 students (8 at the high school level) ensure that all students participate and have numerous opportunities to interact with and learn from teachers and classmates. The program includes a free assessment, after which students are matched in groups according to level (from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through high school) and availability. All classes include substantial focus on writing, with older students focusing on the literary analysis and analytic writing skills they will need in high school.

**WRITING FUNDAMENTALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** ME also offers 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 (up to 8 students in person, 12 online) are designed for effective long-term preparation and taught by experienced, credentialed instructors. Competitively priced at \$60/1'50", these classes tackle all aspects of the SAT, including test-taking strategies and mastery of content. Students receive a free SAT assessment, 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 (up to 8 students in person, 12 online) meet once a week for 1 hour and 50 minutes, are designed for long-term preparation, taught by experienced instructors, and competitively priced (\$60/1'50" class). Students receive a full ACT assessment free of charge and are then scheduled based on their levels and availability.

## ENROLLMENT & SCHEDULING FAQs

**Will Mercer Education Resume In-person Classes?** Yes! Mercer Education held some of our camps this past summer in person, and we are eager to hold more and more of our classes in person as we did in the past. We will continue to offer many of our classes and tutorials remotely, too, and we expect to have options for everyone, both in person and remote. You can indicate your preference on page 1 of the current application.

**When do fall classes start?** Classes resume with our new fall schedule on Saturday, 9/9/23. (We will not be holding regularly scheduled classes from Sunday, 8/20 through Friday, 9/8, 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?** Yes. Mercer Education generates a new schedule each year based on 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 unavailable if you wait until after we have already scheduled other students, so we strongly encourage you to submit your application **by Thursday, 8/31/23**. We will be working on the schedule starting in late August/early September so that we can update students with schedule proposals as early as possible prior to our 9/9/23 start date.

**What is the standard enrollment period for classes at Mercer Education?** Unless otherwise indicated, enrollment in ME's classes is for ongoing 2-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 (depending upon the class, 6 or 8 students in person and either 8 or 12 students online) 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!*