



LEARNING CAMP

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *LEARNING CAMP* for students entering grades 5 through 9 meets 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. For this camp, [we typically offer an in-person option and sometimes also a remote option via Zoom](#); please be sure to indicate your preference on the application. 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 5th/6th grade or 7th/8th/9th grade levels (7th/8th or 8th/9th) without repeating any materials. Students are assessed prior to the start of camp and scheduled in groups of approximately the same age (generally “rising” 5th/6th and 7th/8th or 8th/9th graders) and of similar proficiency. Small classes not exceeding six (6) students (8 students for classes taught remotely via Zoom) 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), 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

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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.

A STUDENT'S TYPICAL DAY

Below is a general outline of what a typical day in the Learning Camp includes. Learning English language arts skills and preparing for the verbal portion of standardized tests include the integration of multiple language learning areas including reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar. Each group of students brings different strengths and weaknesses. Because of the overlap of skills and student diversity, times dedicated to various components may vary depending on the needs of the class.

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| ▶ Warm-up / Journal Time – 20 minutes | ▶ Writer's Workshop – 45 minutes |
| ▶ Reading / Literature Circle – 35 minutes | ▶ Grammar – 35 minutes, 3 to 4 days per week |
| ▶ Break – 5 minutes | ▶ Standardized Test Prep – 1 to 2 days per week |

CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

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| ▶ Designed for students entering grades 5-9 | ▶ Reading and writing outside of class |
| ▶ 50 hours* of focused instruction | ▶ Academic skills & time management skills |
| ▶ Two 4-week sessions available (each with its own distinct curriculum) | ▶ Daily reading and focus on comprehension |
| ▶ Even & odd year curricula allow students to attend each year without repeating the program | ▶ Daily review of writing, grammar, and usage |
| ▶ Assessment prior to camp | ▶ Daily vocabulary instruction |
| ▶ Small classes not exceeding 6 students (8 students for classes taught remotely via Zoom) | ▶ Engaging supplementary materials |
| ▶ Highly experienced instructors | ▶ Progress report & suggestions for parents |

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