

BACK TO SCHOOL – PLANNING AHEAD



Summer is drawing to a close, and while you may be busy stocking up on paper and pencil *en masse*, ordering hefty textbooks, and taking advantage of the remaining sun-filled days ahead, you could be forgetting the most important aspect for a well-prepared Fall semester: a reliable academic support system. It can be all too easy, unfortunately, for students to feel left behind at the very start of a new school year, especially if they are still struggling with core concepts from the previous year. *iLearn Academy* is committed to seeing your student make the most of their time at school by providing them with

quality instruction from experienced teachers who have a passion for the subject in which they teach. This Fall, we've aligned our teachers' schedules to accommodate even the busiest of students, so whether your child needs help getting caught up, staying afloat, or jumping ahead of their peers, we're confident our services are right for you. Enroll before September and save \$50 on your tuition.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

First, I would like to give a special thank you to Ms. Watson for her endless support in helping us run this year's summer program smoothly. This was without a doubt the best summer program ever!

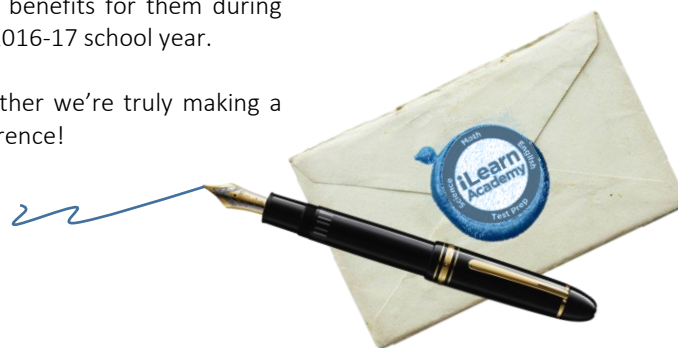
Our students published remarkable essays and stories thanks to our teachers' expert instruction and high level standards. Due to their dedication and skill, many of our students are now placed in advanced math classes. Most

importantly, however, our *iLearn* parents' love and support for their children's education is truly what makes a difference in our students' attitudes toward learning and building strong study habits. Thank you all for your efforts.

I would like to salute each and every student and parent who invested a part of their summer in academic growth. I'm reminded of the moral of Aesop's fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, and I hope all the

students' hard work here at *iLearn Academy* will reap long-term benefits for them during the 2016-17 school year.

Together we're truly making a difference!



Youngah Anderson

SUMMER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Summer Program students made immense strides in math, English and ACT preparation these last few months. While it is impossible to document all the growth each student made individually, here is a small selection of Personal Narrative and Literary Critique writing samples some of our students published. For more examples of the exceptional work produced by students, please visit ilearnacademy.net

"Through the murder of Wellington and the ostensible death of Christopher's mom, Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* demonstrates protecting the ones you love often involves obfuscating the truth."

- Justin L.
Grade 9

"Sareli fell behind me. She looked as if she had been splashed by a whale. I took her to the 'shot' zone. I got extra balloons and 3 water bottles. That was the day the Water War began."

- Matt W.
Grade 8

"Society ostracizes people like Jerry Spinelli's *Stargirl* because they deviate from what is considered to be normal. Leo and his friends talk about what they think of Stargirl, saying, 'In our minds we tried to pin her to a cork board like a butterfly, but it merely went through and away she flew.' Everyone is trying to quarantine her because she is different from the rest."

- Brian L.
Grade 8

"Who knew that river rafting at Yosemite National Park would turn out to be a bloody mess. Well it all started when I woke up one day excited, knowing that in a few hours I would be at the airport about to fly to San Francisco. *Warning: this story has very few happy events.* So if you don't like sad things, I would go back to the library, return this book, and get a book about pink fluffy unicorns."

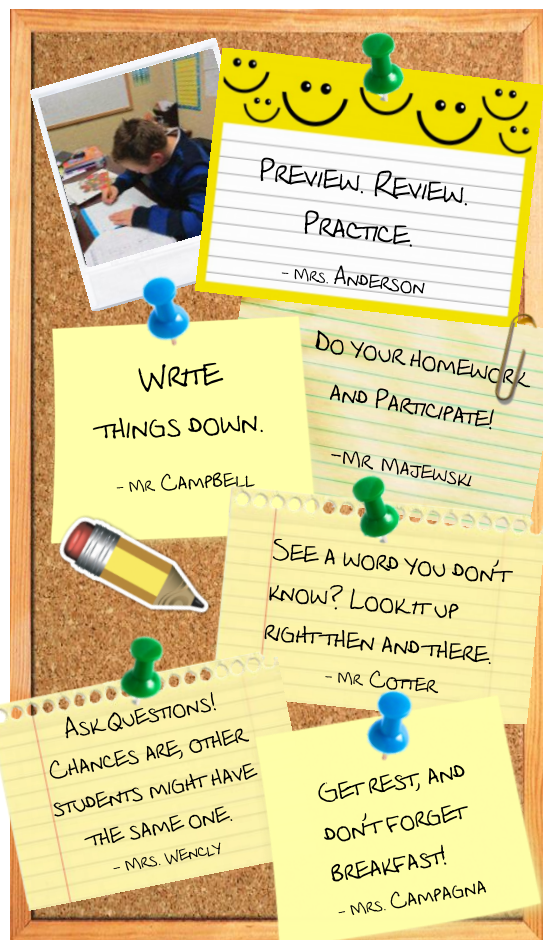
- Olivia S.
Grade 5





TEACHER'S COLUMN

iLearn Academy teachers give you their best advice for how to have a successful semester.



Upcoming ACT Test Dates:

October 22nd
December 10th



GETTING TO KNOW THE PSAT

The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) is a standardized test measuring the skills and knowledge gained from high school, as well as material necessary for success in college. Most students take the PSAT in their junior year of high school, however, many sophomores complete the test in order to get a feel for the requirements and the format. There are a number of reasons students benefit from taking the PSAT. Scores from the PSAT allow students to focus

on their strengths and weaknesses in preparation for the upcoming SAT, ACT and higher education. A preliminary score gives students a look at their performance compared to their peers and also qualifies them for scholarship opportunities. If your student is preparing to enter high school or their sophomore year, now is the perfect time to prepare for this important milestone in their education. For more information on the PSAT, visit collegeboard.org today.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Preparing for academic success should include a well thought out financial plan. Parents can cover the high cost of college and save thousands of dollars in taxes by investing in a 529 College Savings plan. The after tax contributions to the plan will grow tax free if used for higher educational costs, can easily be transferred from one child to another, and will not limit future scholarships or grants available to students. For more information, contact iLearn Academy or visit savingforcollege.com to compare plans and open an account.

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!



All high school juniors who perform well on the PSAT are automatically considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Over half of all finalists receive part of the total 8,600 scholarships awarded annually. We know our students have what it takes to score within the top 4 percentile of the state, but early exposure to the test and lots of practice are the keys to success. Want to get started? Contact us today to talk about iLearn Academy's test preparation and visit nationalmerit.org for more information.

ACT Corner

Illinois has officially purchased the SAT rather than the ACT to offer public school students as a measurement of college preparedness. This has left many parents and students wondering for which test to prepare: the ACT or the SAT? Luckily, we at iLearn Academy know a thing or two about this.

As of 2007, every four-year college accepts either ACT or SAT scores. These tests, from a college admissions standpoint, are entirely interchangeable. Both tests assess your student's capability in mathematics, reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation and quantitative reasoning. So if they test the same concepts and subject matter, why study for one over the other?

In short, available study materials. The SAT recently went through a major

formatting change earlier this year, meaning any prep materials written prior to 2016 are no longer relevant. We say study for the ACT, which has plenty of consistent material to choose from and prepares students for the concepts covered in the SAT as well.

SUCCESS STORIES

Congratulations to iLearn Academy student **Adam M.** for his recent ACT test performance. Not only did he double his original English score, but his ACT composite score was 14 points higher than his mock exam. Way to go!