

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

WHERE **AMBITION**
MEETS **ACHIEVEMENT**

FAST FACTS

1995

the national average SSAT score for 8th graders out of a possible 2400

2030

Exam Prep 8's average practice SSAT score from Week 3

1060

average SAT score for U.S. test-takers out of 1600

1455

average SAT 1500 student score by end of week 4 (99th percentile)

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

Week 3 & 4 of summer were full of exciting learning, improvements, and achievements! Read below to get up-to-date information on your child's summer courses.

MEK REVIEW SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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END-OF-SUMMER BOOT CAMPS
MEK LEARNING CIRCLES
BCA/BT PREP PROGRAMS
SSAT/ISEE/HSPT PREP

WEEK 3 & 4 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** Test prep students completed between **four and twelve practice tests**.
- 2** Students worked on mastering proven strategies for improving their scores.
- 3** At the halfway point of summer, MEK started speaking to students and parents about next steps in the upcoming fall semester.

TEST PREP | Milestones & Achievements

SAT 1500 Advanced	During weeks 3 and 4, students in SAT Math tackled specific test taking strategies and worked on building a strong mindset for the exam. In 1500 Advanced AM, Gene P. has achieved 1600 on 6/7 simulation tests as of the end of week 4. Way to go, Gene!	SAT Foundation	SAT Foundation classes will start taking simulation tests beginning in Week 6.
SAT 1400 & 1500	Week 4 marks the halfway point of the summer. Since week 1, SAT 1400 classes have improved 112 points, and SAT 1500 classes have improved 76 points!	SAT Core	Students are taking their first practice SAT this week. Good luck!
		Exam Prep 8	Yaseen S. received a perfect score on the Math section of last week's SSAT, and Shaun W. earned a perfect score on the Verbal section. Way to go, Yaseen and Shaun!
		SSAT/ISEE 8	Students focused on analogies, vocabulary in context, and inference strategies. Students also learned fractions, percents, and number theory.

HIGH SCHOOL HONORS & AP COURSE PREP | Topics Covered

AP Calculus AB	Application of differentiation Limits and infinity	Honors Analysis I	Quadratic functions Synthetic division Polynomial long division
AP Physics 2	Temperature Specific heat Thermal equilibrium Heat calculations during phase changes	Honors Analysis II	Trigonometry System of equations
Honors Algebra II	Products and quotients of rational expressions Complex fractions Fractional equations	Honors Advanced Analysis II	Law of sines Law of cosines Vector math
Honors Biology	Properties of water and macromolecules Cell structure and function	Honors Physics	Newton's laws of motion Forces Free body diagrams Kinetic/static friction
Honors Geometry	Angles of a polygon Congruent figures Proving triangles congruent	Honors Pre-Calculus	Angles Trigonometric functions Graphing trigonometric functions Trigonometric applications

MEK LEARNING CIRCLES | Milestones & Achievements

Critical Reading Circles	<p>Students have read and analyzed 7 articles/stories, and they have written 7 5-paragraph literary analysis essays with a focus on organizing their details in the body paragraphs and transitioning smoothly into their quotes.</p> <p>They are working on identifying the effectiveness of writers' tones and use of figurative language as well as making strong and relevant connections between the texts and other sources, which includes books, movies, or historical or current events.</p> <p>For Grades 7 and 8, students have been working on making stronger inferences. In their body paragraphs, students worked on strengthening their analysis by breaking down the quote and explaining its importance.</p>
Writing Circles	<p>Students have completed the third full essay cycle and half of the fourth for a total of 7 essays written, as well as 7 grammar lessons finished. At this point, they are able to organize the necessary sentences in each of their five paragraphs independently and are working on including logical transitional phrases and sentences as well as explaining their ideas with relevant examples. The 6th graders have also completed working on their first creative writing pieces: narrative short stories.</p>
Math: Operations & Number Sense Circles	<p>Students completed the first two units and two cumulative tests. Students also completed approximately 450 in-class and homework problems. One student scored a perfect score on the cumulative test 1.</p>
Math: Problem-Solving Math Circles	<p>Students completed the first two units and two cumulative tests. Students also completed approximately 450 in-class and homework problems.</p>
Non-Fiction Reading	<p>Students have presented three times on issues pertaining to lead poisoning, immigration, and book burning. The students will be introduced to issues pertaining to teen mental health and be creating presentations based on that subject. Students will be incorporating and explaining various images and media that will help strengthen their given claims. Students will be continuously working on their final presentation topics.</p>
Advanced Verbal Reasoning	<p>Students completed reading drills and vocabulary quizzes corresponding to weekly lessons. They have learned tips and techniques to answer main idea, inference, basic fact, and purpose and function questions. They have also learned techniques and tips for synonym and antonym and degrees and extremes type analogies. They have also learned approximately one hundred vocabulary words. On August 1st, they have completed their first cumulative quiz.</p>
Advanced Math Applications	<p>Students have completed 421 problems on their homework and in-class assignments. This includes one cumulative test, one in-class drill assignment based on Middle ISEE questions, and twice-weekly classwork and homework assignments. They have made a start on elementary algebra topics, reviewed the lessons from the first two weeks during their first test, and discussed difficult measurement conversion and geometry problems.</p>
MAPC	<p>During weeks 3 and 4, students have learned about patterns, number sense, and ratio & proportions.</p>

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

HIGH SCHOOL HONORS



VIHA KOTHAKONDA

9TH GRADE

HONORS ALGEBRA II

“Viha completes her work with high fidelity and goes above and beyond to conceptually understand the material.”

- Demir Radoncic, High School Algebra II Teacher

Out of over 600 students, Viha was chosen by her teachers to be our High School Student of the Week because of her hard work, dedication, and overall performance.

Way to go Viha!

Let's learn a little bit more about Viha:

What do you like about your MEK classes so far?

I really like that my MEK teachers have given me an enjoyable way to be productive over the summer.

What have you learned so far?

I have learned a lot of new Algebra concepts, such as solving polynomial equations, complex fractions, and rational exponents.

What colleges or field of study do you plan to pursue in the future?

In college, I plan to pursue medicine in the hopes of becoming a doctor.

What do you like to do outside of MEK? Any hobbies or activities that you love?

Outside of MEK, I enjoy drawing, playing video games, and playing tennis.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

MEK LEARNING CIRCLES



KARIN SHIM

6TH GRADE

MLC CRITICAL READING

“Karin has consistently been a positive, productive member of our class who is always well-prepared and turns in very thorough work. Her essays have shown that she is attentive, and she takes the time to carefully explain her ideas in a detailed and accurate manner. I am sure that as we continue to dive into more varied types of texts, she will continue to widen her perspective on different writing styles and topics and grow as an increasingly critical reader and thinker. Great effort and work so far, Karin! :)”

- Kathy Kim, English Teacher

Out of over 600 students, Karin was chosen by her teachers to be our Middle School Student of the Week because of her positive attitude, hard work, and preparedness.

Way to go Karin!

Let's learn a little bit more about Karin:

What do you like about your MEK classes so far?

What I like about my classes is that my teacher guides us through what we need in our literary essays. This makes the process of writing my essay way easier than starting from scratch by myself. My teacher always asks us if we have any questions, and she gives us ideas for hooks, extensions, and connections for our writing, which is very useful.

What have you learned so far?

So far, I have learned how to write literary essays for both non-fiction and fiction texts. I now know what I am supposed to be looking for in the text to include in my writing, as well as the notes I am taking down while reading the text.

What is your favorite subject in school?

I am most interested in history. I think it's interesting to look back in time to see what this country has been through. This is the subject that I had the most fun in because of the entertaining projects that I have been assigned (compared to other subjects).

What do you like to do outside of MEK?

Outside of MEK, I love to draw (traditionally). I am more familiar with drawing people in my own art style than drawing animals and realism. Through time, I've gotten to observe how much I have improved in my art using my sketchbooks. Seeing my improvement makes me very proud of myself, and I use this as motivation to continue and improve my drawing skills.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

DEMIR RADONCIC



Demir Radoncic, MEK Math Teacher, Public School Educator, Avid Reader

Demir Radoncic is a Math teacher with MEK, who teaches High School Honors Algebra II, High School Honors Pre-Calculus, SAT Foundation, MLC Math, BCA Prep Math, AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC.

The following is an interview between him and our marketing writer:

Interviewer: *What is your favorite part of teaching at MEK?*

Radoncic: I thoroughly enjoy helping our students maximize their full potential. At MEK, maximizing student potential extends beyond just “getting really good at math”. It encompasses everything from work ethic to time management to work life balance because MEK students have such full plates. So, by helping students implement a plan that they can follow step-by-step, we are able to better lead them toward success.

Interviewer: *What inspired you to become a teacher?*

Radoncic: When I’m not working at MEK, I teach high school Geometry and AP Computer Science at a public school in the South Bronx, where I also work closely with my school’s principal on developing math curriculum.

For me, teaching is all about giving back. I love working with students and helping them achieve their goals. It’s why I became a teacher. My personal philosophy, when it

comes to my educational practice, is to consistently teach students the topics and concepts that I wished my teachers had taught me when I was in school.

Interviewer: *How do you think students can build mindset and stamina for challenging admissions or AP tests?*

Radoncic: Building mindset and stamina is like having a block of wood with rough edges that need to be sanded down. Just like with getting an 800 on the math section of the SAT or earning top grades in honors and AP math classes, stamina comes with practicing skills and strategies daily. And mindset comes when you understand that your goal is not out of reach. You can do it. It’s just a matter of commitment.

I try my best to show students that they are beyond capable of achieving their goals, not just passing and getting by, but of excelling and doing well. Furthermore, I try to help them cut out bad daily habits in order to find where they can make time to study. For example, if a student is spending several hours a day on their phone, then that is valuable time that they could be practicing study habits.

Interviewer: *What are some words of wisdom you have for students applying to college?*

Radoncic: I tell my students to remember that there is a human being that’s reading your personal statement. Not only is that person reading your personal statement, but they are also reading thousands of other student applications a day. Therefore, you have to find a way to make yourself stand out by writing a really thought provoking essay, or series of essays if you’re writing supplemental essays. A majority of students applying to top schools have the grades to get in, so there has to be something unique that you display about yourself. It’s important to write an essay that stimulates the reader (Intellectually and Emotionally) in order to really captivate the admissions board.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT | DEMIR RADONCIC (CONT'D)

Interviewer: *What do you like to do outside of MEK?*

Radoncic: Outside of MEK, I love to go on hikes, play video games, go to the gym, watch anime, and read books. I'm heavily interested in finances and financial literacy, so I spend a lot of time managing my investment accounts. I also enjoy going to Broadway plays. I actually saw Book of Mormon for the first time recently. I thought it was really funny and that the performance was really well done.

Interviewer: *As a reader, do you have any book recommendations for students?*

Radoncic: I think students would really enjoy the book, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari. This book really opened my eyes and illustrated how connected humanity is despite our geographical separation. This book shows how we got to where we are today in a fun and engaging way.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

VICTORIA MURANO



Victoria Murano, MEK English Teacher, French Speaker, Book Lover

Victoria Murano is an English teacher at MEK, who teaches Exam Prep 8, SAT Core, SAT Foundation, MLC Writing, MLC Critical Reading, and tutors in History.

The following is an interview between her and our content writer:

Interviewer: *What is your favorite part of teaching at MEK?*

Murano: At MEK, we focus on student's individual progress. MEK makes it really easy for teachers to access and compare student scores and monitor how students are performing academically. Teachers can figure out the student's mindset and easily reach out to them to discuss their progress in class and schedule meetings.

I like MEK's use of the Canvas platform, which keeps everything organized easily. And I also like the way lessons are structured. All of the lessons build on one another, starting with foundational knowledge and adding more challenging content with each class. Students are also given different ways to practice what they've learned in class, if they feel like they need extra help.

For example, in Exam Prep 8, we give students supplemental vocabulary quizzes through Canvas, apart from the vocabulary quizzes they take during class, to reinforce and retain what they've learned in class.

MEK gives students a variety of ways to excel beyond the classroom.

Interviewer: *What's your key to student engagement in the classroom?*

Murano: Strategies for student engagement depend on the class, since each class has its own dynamic. I've also noticed that student engagement is easier to achieve in-person than in the virtual classroom.

The first thing I like to do for student engagement is to make my lessons as interesting as possible through asking questions to make sure they are following along and to reinforce what we've been learning. I also implement fun activities that have the students working in groups.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT | VICTORIA MURANO (CONT'D)

Interviewer: *What is your advice to students who want to score an 800 on the English section of the SAT?*

Murano: I cannot stress this enough, you have to study outside of class in order to independently process and reinforce the material. Only studying during class time is not enough. As the teacher, I can help you understand and memorize the concepts, but you have to use your free time to review. Even 20 minutes a day is enough to retain information. Students who study outside of class show the most improvement on practice tests and assignments. And in order to make sure your progress doesn't stagnate, you have to use your class notes to build your test-taking skills outside of the classroom on your own time.

Interviewer: *How do you think students can build mindset or stamina for the tough BCA admissions exam?*

Murano: Just like with earning top scores on admissions tests, mindset and stamina are built on the time spent outside of class studying your course notes and materials. Seeing improvement is a student's biggest motivator. But the only way to improve is to study in your free time.

If a student isn't seeing the improvement that they want, they need to use their teacher as a resource. Reach out to your instructor to learn more about your weaknesses and how to improve them.

Interviewer: *What inspired you to become a teacher?*

Murano: My mother is a retired high school Spanish teacher. And growing up, I didn't think I wanted to be a teacher because I saw how stressful her career was. I tutored a little in high school, teaching ESL to a 4th grade student who had just come from Korea.

But when I got to college, I majored in History and French, and became a teaching assistant for one of my French professors. That's when I realized how much I enjoyed teaching, designing lessons that reinforced what students learned in class, and helping students reach their goals. And after college, I became a French tutor.

Teaching is a lot of work, but the stress is absolutely worth it to see students progress and succeed.

Interviewer: *What are some words of wisdom you have for students applying to top high schools and colleges?*

Murano: My biggest piece of advice is to pace yourself and to not wait until the last minute to complete your applications. It's so easy to burn yourself out this way. I know the college application process is extensive. You have admissions exams, personal statements, interviews, and even the stress of just waiting for responses. But it's easy to become overwhelmed by all of it.

That's why it's so important to take time to do what you love. Whether it's watching a show that you enjoy, taking a day off to spend time with friends, or even going for a walk, these activities can help you destress and avoid burnout. And if you feel like you're at a point in your studies where you're having trouble concentrating, take a break and come back later. It's important to strike a balance between completing your obligations and not overworking yourself.

Interviewer: *What do you like to do outside of MEK?*

Murano: Outside of MEK, I like to read books in both English and French. I like to read in French in order to keep up with my language skills. I also enjoy having conversations in French with my conversation partner. My advice to anyone who wants to learn a language is to find a language partner to practice with. I'm a huge fan of music and like to go record shopping in my free time. I like to crochet, and I even wear my creations to work sometimes. And I enjoy history and reading history books and historical novels.

Interviewer: *What are you currently reading?*

Murano: I'm currently reading *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. It's about a woman who works in a bookstore and is being haunted by one of her old patrons. The author is Native American, and the book explores issues of Native American identity.

I am also reading a book written by one of my French professors from college. *Le sang noir des hommes* by Julien Suaudeau is also a sort of ghost story that touches on themes such as the violence of French colonialism.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

A COLLEGE COUNSELOR'S ASSESSMENT OF 2022 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

By Jaehee Ahn, Assistant Director of Academic Counseling Services

It's no secret that the 2021-2022 college admissions cycle presented challenges to students all across the board. Using this knowledge and strategy, the Academic Counseling Services at MEK Review shape our strategies for the upcoming admissions cycle.

RECORD LOW ACCEPTANCE RATES & RECORD HIGH APPLICANT NUMBERS

It's obvious, in numbers, that this was the most difficult year for college admissions, possibly in history. And unfortunately, all signs show that this year will not be an outlier, but rather a trend.

The Harvard Crimson

Harvard College Accepts Record-Low 3.19% of Applicants to Class of 2026

Harvard College accepted **3.19 percent of applicants** to its Class of 2026 — the lowest rate in the school's history — as it saw a record high number of candidates apply for the second straight year.

Washington Square News

NYU acceptance rate falls to 12.2% for 2022 admits

NYU's undergraduate admissions rate dropped to 12.2% for the class of 2026, according to university admissions data released on Wednesday. More than 105,000 students applied — the highest number of applicants in NYU's history, and one of the highest ever received by a U.S. university.

Brown University

Brown admits 2,546 students to the undergraduate Class of 2026

A total of 50,649 prospective students applied to attend Brown — a **9% increase** from last year, and the University's largest applicant pool to date by more than 4,000 students.

Students and parents always ask me why this is, and the answer comes down to pretty simple math. The number of seats that a college or university can offer to one graduating class stays approximately the same from year to year, but the number of applicants keeps growing. So, to maintain their quota, colleges need to take a smaller percentage of the applicant pool.

The Common Application reported early this year that the application volume through the middle of February increased nearly 10% from the year before, which was already 10% more than the year before that, even though the number of students graduating from high school from year to year has stayed generally stable. What this means is that students are applying to more and more schools each year.

LONGER COLLEGE LIST ≠ MORE ACCEPTANCES

Every year, there is a significant number of students that I need to remind that no matter how many schools they apply to, they can only eventually go to one of them. Nevertheless, every year, there is always at least one student who insists upon applying to every college that they have heard about over the past year and more.

Why Shouldn't I Apply to More Schools?

An application, no matter how simple, requires time, energy, and money.

For example, an application to Yale University consists of four short essays and four “snapshots”: 200-character blurbs that, when written well, can serve as colorful windows into a student's personality and character.

An application to Northeastern University does not consist of any supplemental essays, but does ask for a resume, which needs to be well-crafted and act as a supporting piece for the Common Application activities list.

So, really, there is no truly easy application—at least within the top 50 colleges and universities in the United States.

High school seniors are busy. They have to keep up their grades, maintain their commitments to their extracurricular activities, take on leadership as necessary, and sometimes even finish up their standardized tests. On top of that, they need to complete their college applications. Time and energy are not available in unlimited supply, but this time and energy is what makes for a successful application.

More applications are more commitments, and as a college counselor, I would like to discourage any student from spreading themselves too thin during these last pivotal moments before college.

IMPORTANCE OF QUALITATIVE MATERIALS

With the increase of applicants, and consequently, the competition for admissions, it's inevitable that students with similarly high metrics (GPA, SAT/ACT, class rank, etc.) and similar extracurricular experiences will gather in the applicant pool at each school. Plus, with the test optional policy in place at most colleges and universities, there are even fewer data points that admissions officers can use to assess a student.

At this point, admissions officers need to turn to the materials that bring the application to life: the application essays and letters of recommendation. These qualitative materials are what advocate for you, fighting for you to be a part of the campus. When written well, the essays and letters of recommendation connect all of the data points that are presented in your application to build an accurate picture of why you are who you are and why you want to study what you want to study.

STATISTICS ARE STILL STATISTICS

No matter how much college applications change, one thing that will always stay the same is that the initial filter of admissions will be a student's numbers: GPA, SAT/ACT, class rank, etc. Students will be assessed upon these metrics before

A COLLEGE COUNSELOR'S ASSESSMENT OF 2022 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS (CONT'D)

any other metrics are considered.

Consider the following student:

Emily* was one of my students during the past admissions cycle, and her activities were incredibly strong. She had an immense heart for advocacy, and for the past three years, she had completed her Girl Scouts Gold Award project on a cause that she cared about deeply. Through this project, she had developed an app, a website, and even an educational program to be used in elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as police stations and colleges/universities.

Through this project, she was invited to be on the New Jersey Coalition for this specific cause, and received the support of a New Jersey senator who eventually wrote her a letter of recommendation.

However, Emily also had a 3.57 unweighted GPA and an SAT score of 1490—far below the usual standards for admissions to her dream school, Princeton University. And while her activities shouted that she was not only a rigorous and ambitious student, but also one who would fit right into the community at Princeton University, her statistics showed otherwise.

She still applied to Princeton using their Restrictive Early Action policy because she knew that she would regret having not given it a shot, but the result was not surprising: denied.

While qualitative materials are incredibly important, for most top colleges and universities, they only really start making a difference when the student's numbers are at a certain standard. And oftentimes, this standard lies in the near-perfect realm.

TEST SCORES STILL COUNT!

Yes, there are a select number of colleges that will not look at test scores, even if they are submitted, named test blind schools. However, there are far more schools that will definitely put your test scores into account if they are submitted.

It is true that students who do not have competitive standardized test scores do not need to submit them, thereby limiting the number of unfavorable data points in their application. However, for students who have less competitive GPAs, standardized tests provide good opportunities to compensate for this rigor and provide a separate metric of academic performance.

Students with top GPAs can use the SAT or ACT to bolster their GPAs and show that they can handle rigor on all fronts. Therefore, it is only helpful to have a good SAT or ACT score in order to have a competitive college application!

COLLEGES LOOKING TO FILL THEIR SPOTS WITH SURE BETS

As I mentioned earlier, I remind many students each year that no matter how many schools they apply to, they can eventually only choose one to actually attend. With students applying to more and more colleges and universities, that means that a smaller percentage of accepted students will matriculate into the incoming freshman class at one school. So, as this trend continues, colleges and universities look to put their investments into the students who will surely choose to attend the school if admitted: Early Decision applicants.

In the 2022-2023 admissions cycle, the University of Pennsylvania filled 51% of its upcoming freshman class during the Early Decision cycle. Barnard College filled 62% of the available seats during Early Decision, and even Boston University filled 50% of its upcoming class before even considering regular decision applicants. Granted, there was also a tremendous increase in the number of applications, but even so, the numbers make it clear that the Early Decision policy is a student's best chance of getting into their dream school, now more than ever.

STRATEGY IS KEY

When we think about college admissions as a game, it is a game of strategy. Every student has strengths and weaknesses, and the application is all about how to accentuate our strengths while using our weaknesses in the best possible way. At MEK, we provide counseling to allow students to create the best possible college application package and celebrate the achievements and hard work that they have invested themselves in throughout their high school years.

If you would like to speak with a college counselor or a college essay coach, please contact me at acs@mekreview.com, and we'll schedule a meeting right away!

I hope to speak with you soon!

Read the full article here | [A College Counselor's Assessment of 2022 College Admissions](#)

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

MEK CELEBRATES DR. JUNE HUH, 2022 FIELDS MEDAL WINNER

By Elisa Sung, Junior Marketing Content Writer

Recently, June Huh was named as 1 of the 4 recipients of the 2022 Fields Medal for his mathematical achievements. He is the first Korean mathematician to receive this honorable award.

WHAT IS THE FIELDS MEDAL?

The Fields Medal celebrates diverse mathematical achievements and is awarded to 2-4 mathematicians every 4 years. It is considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize. J.C. Fields, a Canadian mathematician, founded the award. Recipients are under 40 years of age.

WHO IS JUNE HUH?

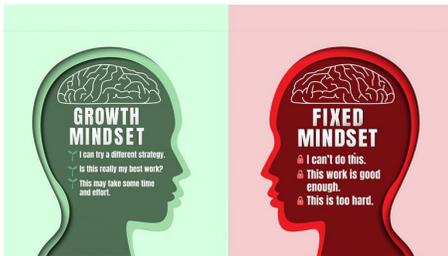


Unlike most mathematicians, Dr. Huh was not always talented at math. He didn't get top grades in math or win math competitions as a kid. Instead, Dr. Huh struggled in his math classes and wanted to be a poet.

An early mathematical breakthrough happened in middle school, when Dr. Huh faced a chess board problem in the computer game "The 11th Hour". Days of struggling went by before he pushed through and realized the solution. By not giving up and finding a strategy to simplify the problem, Dr. Huh was able to solve the puzzle.

Dr. Huh's pursuit of mathematics took root during his senior year at college, when he studied under Heisuke Hironaka, a Japanese mathematician who received the Fields Medal in 1970. Using what he had learned from his knowledgeable mentor, Dr. Huh went on to apply Hodge Theory to combinatorics, the achievement which led him to receive the Fields Medal.

IMPORTANCE OF THE GROWTH MINDSET



Dr. Huh made a name for himself in mathematics because he had a growth mindset. Someone with a fixed mindset, who believes they can only be born with

skills or talent, would think they are "not good at math" and will never be.

On the other hand, someone with a growth mindset sees skill and talent as something they can gain through learning and practice. Even if they are originally not "good at" math, they would continue to pursue the subject to improve until they acquire the skills.

We asked our math teachers what they had to say about this great honor and how to build a growth mindset in order to push past barriers and achieve success. Here's what they had to say.

PRANAV GUPTA

DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEST PREP

"Interest is key"

Interest motivates people to learn and pursue something. Before Dr. Huh found his place in algebraic geometry and combinatorics, he was lost trying to study topics he had no interest in. But even though he failed many classes, he was still able to find his passion in algebraic geometry. And, ultimately, it was his interest that helped him excel.

"Anything is possible if you chase the fundamentals of a subject."

Every subject has basic rules and principles to follow. These basics provide students with a way of thinking which will help them succeed at more advanced topics. The development of an analytical mindset and reasoning skills is key to success in math.

"You need to be persistent."

It's difficult to succeed on the first try. Dr. Huh failed many times before succeeding in math. He wasn't good at math from the start, but he didn't give up. By attempting to solve a problem multiple times and learning from their failures, students can grow their skills and gain confidence.

TONY KIM

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE TEST PREP MATH

"You don't need to be born with talent to be great at Math."

This is a belief of students with fixed mindsets. In reality, math skills are gained over time. Even students who have an easier time understanding math than most need to hone their skills through regular instruction and practice.

"If students enjoy the subject, then skills and achievements will follow automatically."

When students enjoy a subject, they'll spend more time on it. Rather than stressing over and prioritizing getting to the right solutions, students who find enjoyment in math will be more inclined to carefully go through each step of the problem-solving process.

Similarly, focusing on achievements can leave students feeling frustrated when they struggle on difficult math problems. When they rush to get the correct answer to a problem and fail, it's easy to become discouraged. The process of solving problems and equations is a journey. Once students appreciate each step of solving a problem and how the variables interact, their stress turns into enjoyment and they'll arrive at the solution before they know it.



MEK CELEBRATES DR. JUNE HUH, 2022 FIELDS MEDAL WINNER (CONT'D)

“Don’t try too hard to be ‘good’ at math, try to have ‘fun’ with it first.”

This advice is in line with not focusing solely on skills and achievements. Taking the pressure off of getting good grades allows students to direct more attention to understanding each step in a problem. This helps them establish a strong foundation in math and build their confidence in their abilities.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR FALL MATH TUTORING!
Our Fall tutoring availability is limited, so if you want to develop this growth mindset in a one-on-one setting (either virtual or in-person), contact us today!

Read the full article here | [MEK Celebrates Dr. Huh: 2022 Fields Medalist](#)

WHAT’S NEXT

FALL 2022 REGISTRATION

Register for Fall 2022 courses by August 26th to receive up to 20% off your tuition.



SCAN OR CLICK TO DOWNLOAD
FALL 2022 COURSE CATALOG

END-OF-SUMMER BOOT CAMPS

ACT BOOT CAMP | AUGUST 30TH TO SEPTEMBER 8TH

TUITION: \$893 for 8-day boot camp

Finish off your test prep journey strong with **an intensive virtual 8-day boot camp**, comprised of lectures and exams! Join our ACT teaching team and other rigorous students to reach your goal score and unlock your potential on the September ACT exam!

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUG. 30 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Simulation Test	AUG. 31 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Lecture	SEPT. 1 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Simulation Test	SEPT. 2 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Lecture	SEPT. 3 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM Simulation Test
SEPT. 6 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Lecture	SEPT. 7 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Simulation Test	SEPT. 8 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM Lecture	<i>SEPT. 9</i>	SEPT. 10 OFFICIAL ACT EXAM

COLLEGE ESSAY BOOT CAMP | AUGUST 29TH TO 31ST, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Upcoming 12th Graders, complete your personal statement **from start to finish** in just three days! Hosted at our Closter campus, have your own individual space for 8 hours a day, for three days, to...

- + Work individually with an expert essay coach in a one-on-one setting
- + Talk with peers in a group workshop setting
- + Have an intensive writing experience

TUITION: ~~\$1,800~~ for 3-day boot camp
\$1,550 when you register by **August 12th**

Want more information, or want to register in the boot camp?

Fill out the following form by August 12th to register with **an exclusive \$250 discount!**

[Preliminary Information Form](#)



MEK LEARNING CIRCLES | SCHEDULE

Course schedules are subject to change based on enrollment. Contact us for exact schedules and details.

PROGRAM	COURSE	START DATE	CAMPUS	SCHEDULE	
				DAY	TIME
MATH CIRCLES PROBLEM SOLVING MATH	Math 4 PSM	Sept. 15 th	Palisades Park	Thursday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
	Math 5 PSM	Sept. 13 th	Virtual	Tuesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 15 th	Palisades Park	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Math 6 PSM	Sept. 14 th	Virtual	Wednesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 10 th	Closter	Saturday	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
	Pre-Algebra 1 PSM	Sept. 13 th	Virtual	Tuesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 9 th	Virtual	Friday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 10 th	Closter	Saturday	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
	Pre-Algebra 2 PSM	Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 10 th	Virtual	Saturday	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Algebra I	Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM	
	Sept. 10 th	Virtual	Saturday	1:00 PM to 2:30 PM	
Advanced Algebra I	Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	
MATH CIRCLES OPERATIONS & NUMBER SENSE	Math 4 ONS	Sept. 14 th	Virtual	Wednesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Math 5 ONS	Sept. 14 th	Closter	Wednesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
	Math 6 ONS	Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 13 th	Palisades Park	Tuesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Pre-Algebra 1 ONS	Sept. 13 th	Virtual	Tuesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 10 th	Palisades Park	Saturday	2:30 PM to 4:00 PM
	Pre-Algebra 2 ONS	Sept. 13 th	Virtual	Tuesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Sept. 10 th		Virtual	Saturday	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM	
MATH CIRCLES ADVANCED MATH APPLICATIONS	Advanced Math Applications 6	Sept. 14 th	Virtual	Wednesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Advanced Math Applications 7	Sept. 9 th	Virtual	Friday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
ENGLISH CIRCLES CRITICAL READING	Critical Reading 4	Sept. 13 th	Closter	Tuesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Critical Reading 5	Sept. 13 th	Closter	Tuesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 14 th	Virtual	Wednesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Critical Reading 6	Sept. 14 th	Closter	Wednesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 9 th	Virtual	Friday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
	Critical Reading 7	Sept. 15 th	Closter	Thursday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 10 th	Virtual	Saturday	1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
		Sept. 13 th	Virtual	Tuesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Critical Reading 8	Sept. 10 th	Virtual	Saturday	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	
ENGLISH CIRCLES WRITING	Writing 4	Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
		Sept. 13 th	Palisades Park	Tuesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Writing 5	Sept. 15 th	Closter	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 14 th	Virtual	Wednesday	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
	Writing 6	Sept. 15 th	Palisades Park	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 9 th	Virtual	Friday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Writing 7	Sept. 14 th	Palisades Park	Wednesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
		Sept. 15 th	Virtual	Thursday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
Writing 8	Sept. 10 th	Virtual	Saturday	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM	
ENGLISH CIRCLES ADVANCED VERBAL REASONING	Advanced Verbal Reasoning 6	Sept. 13 th	Virtual	Tuesday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
	Advanced Verbal Reasoning 7	Sept. 9 th	Virtual	Friday	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM



FALL 2022 BCA/BT PREP PROGRAM

Students currently enrolled in Exam Prep 8 will take their BCA/BT Prep Placement Exams on August 12th, in class. Following the exam, students will receive their initial class placement, which will dictate their specific schedules.

This year's BCA/BT Prep Program will be **100% in-person**, hosted at both Palisades Park and Closter campuses, and thus, we have limited space available for students to join the program.

While our Early Bird Registration ends on August 26th, we recommend that all students with the intention of enrolling in the Fall BCA/BT Prep Program register **in advance** to save their spot in the program, regardless of class placement.

NOW UNTIL **AUGUST 26TH**

CCSS STUDENT EVALUATION (IF NOT TAKEN EARLIER)
BCA/BT SIMULATION TEST | OFFICIAL PLACEMENT

Students will take their BCA Simulation Test for official placement into the program. The placement that students receive during this time will be the official first placement into the BCA/BT Prep program. Students may be placed in different levels for English and Math.

Students enrolling in the BCA/BT Prep Program during this time will be enrolling in BOTH the program AND the course level that they qualify for.

However, students who are currently enrolled at MEK and have not received their placement may register for the program to ensure a spot in the program before placement. **This way, these students can secure their preferred schedule and campus.**

FALL 2022 SCHEDULE
PHASE 1: SEPTEMBER 9TH TO NOVEMBER 12TH
PHASE 2: NOVEMBER 12TH TO JANUARY 7TH

	PALISADES PARK CAMPUS		CLOSTER CAMPUS	
	ENGLISH	MATH	ENGLISH	MATH
HIGH HONORS	Thursday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Saturday 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	N/A	N/A
LEVEL A & B	Wednesday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM STARTING NOV. 12TH, 6:10 PM to 8:30 PM Saturday 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM STARTING NOV. 12TH, 9:10 AM to 11:30 AM	Tuesday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM Friday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Tuesday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM STARTING NOV. 12TH, 6:10 PM to 8:30 PM	Wednesday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM
LEVEL C	Wednesday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM STARTING NOV. 12TH, 6:10 PM to 8:30 PM Saturday 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM STARTING NOV. 12TH, 9:10 AM to 11:30 AM	Tuesday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM Friday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM	N/A	N/A
CLINIC	Thursday 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Tuesday & Friday 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM	N/A	N/A

REGISTER BY AUGUST 26TH FOR **UP TO 20% OFF** ~~\$7,254~~ **\$5,857**

AUG
26

AUGUST 26TH

NO BCA/BT SIMULATION TESTS GIVEN AFTER AUGUST 26TH

SEPT
09

SEPTEMBER 9TH

START OF BCA/BT PREP PROGRAM

SSAT / ISEE / HSPT TEST PREP

Students who are currently in Exam Prep 8 or SSAT/ISEE 8 are recommended to take the Fall SSAT/ISEE Prep or HSPT Prep class in order to maintain the rigor of their Summer prep until their target test date.

Contact us to schedule a meeting with Head Counselor Ann Ahn to design your test prep plan. Make the best strategy for your high school admissions using all options available!

SSAT/ISEE PREP | TEST TRAINING

FOR	GOAL	LENGTH	SCHEDULE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
8 th graders applying to private day and boarding high schools*	To reach the 90 th percentile of test-takers	12 weeks (Sept. 15 th to Dec. 8 th)	VIRTUAL CLASS Thursday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM <i>See testing schedule below.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take weekly full-length simulation tests and experience real test-day pressures Practice reading and verbal skills, and learn test-specific vocabulary Build upon number sense and critical reading literacy to develop strong content mastery Prepare to take the official SSAT and/or ISEE in Fall 2022 <p><i>Essay Prep available through Private Test Prep only.</i></p>
			IN-PERSON LECTURE CLOSTER CAMPUS Thursday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM <i>See testing schedule below.</i>	

*Students must take a qualifying evaluation before registering for this course.

HSPT PREP | TEST TRAINING

FOR	GOAL	LENGTH	SCHEDULE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
8 th graders applying to competitive parochial high schools	Build foundational skills for parochial school admissions tests	8 weeks (Sept. 14 th to Nov. 9 th)	VIRTUAL CLASS Wednesday 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM <i>See testing schedule below.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take weekly full-length simulation tests and experience real test-day pressures Practice reading and verbal skills, and learn test-specific vocabulary Build upon number sense and critical reading literacy to develop strong content mastery Prepare to take the official HSPT in Fall 2022

SIMULATION TESTING

Students in SSAT/ISEE Prep and HSPT Prep courses are required to take weekly simulation tests to frequently and accurately assess progress, as well as prepare students for the official SSAT, ISEE, and/or HSPT tests.

IN-PERSON VS. VIRTUAL?

Both in-person and virtual testing settings are valuable to students. However, students are recommended to use the same setting during the simulation tests as they will during the official exam.

This means that if a student is taking the official exam virtually, we recommend that they take their practice tests virtually to make sure that they are ready for the official test date.

In the same way, if students are taking their official test in-person, we recommend that they take their practice test in-person at either of our campuses.

Please refer to the scheduling options to the right.

HOW LONG ARE THE TESTS?

SSAT: 2 hours & 10 minutes

ISEE: 2 hours & 10 minutes

HSPT: 2 hours & 30 minutes

IN-PERSON TESTING, CLOSTER CAMPUS

Scheduled by appointment

Fridays & Saturdays

IN-PERSON TESTING, PALISADES PARK CAMPUS

Saturdays

Starting time: 1:00 PM

VIRTUAL TESTING

Saturdays

Starting time: 9:00 AM



MEK REVIEW[®]

(855) 346-1410
www.mekreview.com

PALISADES PARK CAMPUS

261 1st Street
Palisades Park, NJ 07650

CLOSTER CAMPUS

40 Homans Ave.
Closter, NJ 07624