

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

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

WEEK 7 & 8 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Many test prep students started surpassing their target score!
- 2 HS honor students learned 60% of the upcoming curriculum for their math and science courses.
- 3 Students completed a survey on the last week of class to share their feedback on their course experience.

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

During the final weeks of summer, students achieved their summer goals, mastered key skills, and completed all their main objectives. Thank you to all our parents and students for a wonderful and productive summer full of amazing growth!

TEST PREP | Milestones & Achievements

- SAT 1500 Advanced** The On-Site PM class had multiple students improve 100+ points between Week 1 and Week 8. The Virtual AM class at the beginning of Week 8 averaged a 1509 on their practice test, meaning that MEK's average for this class is the nation's top 1 percent.
- SAT 1400 & 1500** Between the first 3 tests of Week 1 and the first 2 tests of Week 8, students in SAT 1500 have improved an average of 103 points. Between the first 3 tests of Week 1 and the first 2 tests of Week 8, students in SAT 1400 have improved an average of 131 points.
Sophia M. scored a perfect 800 on the sections. Ernesto B. and Alice P. have improved their math scores by about 100 points.
- SAT Foundation** Between students' evaluation tests before the summer, and their first test of Week 8, students in SAT Foundation have improved an average of 156 points.
Himashri B. has been improving so much! She started with 490 and so far reached a score of 650. While three students have reached scores in the 700s.
- SAT Core Reading & Writing** Students took their second simulation test this week.

TEST PREP | Milestones & Achievements (Cont'd)

Exam Prep 8 Students took their BCA Placement Test in class. Topics covered in Math were Algebraic problem solving and how it relates to pre-algebraic solving process, a trend that is becoming more and more prevalent in BCA exams these upcoming years. Students continued to learn about BCA essay's, reviewing body paragraphs, quote integration, and conclusion this past week. They also continued to work on their vocabulary acquisition as well as their verbal skills and reading comprehension.

SSAT/ISEE 8 The main focus of the last few weeks was to fine tune test taking skills and strategies while doing topic based homeworks weekly in Math to give students the full scope of challenging word problems. Students took their final SSATs of the semester. Many students saw exceptional growth from their first tests, both in score and also in confidence with navigating the difficult time constraint and the challenging questions. The final week consisted of a final test review, a lesson on how to maintain the skills they have developed between their final simulation test and their real test, and a final ISEE simulation test on Friday.

From Week 1 to Week 7, students improved 32 points on the math section, 52 points on the reading section, and 78 points on the verbal section of the SSAT!

Both **SSAT/ISEE** and **Exam 8** did supplemental Math and English Canvas quizzes to support their timed testing accuracy. Average students took upwards of 15+ of these assignments, and there are a total of 30 English assignments and 20 Math assignments. Students will continue to have access to their Canvas course until 9/2 so they can not only download, save, and archive any notes and assignments, but also attempt the supplemental exercises that they were not able to do! This will ensure they are at their peak readiness for the fall Semester.

HIGH SCHOOL HONORS & AP COURSE PREP | Topics Covered

AP Calculus AB	Integration by substitution Natural logarithmic & exponential functions Application of integration Final Exam + Review	Honors Advanced Analysis II	Sequences & Series Geometric & arithmetic series & sums Matrices Solving systems of equations w/ matrices Determinants of matrices
AP Physics 2	Electric Potential Energy Electric Potential Parallel Plate Capacitors	Honors Pre-Calculus	Linear systems with 3 or more variables Matrices Gaussian Elimination / Row Echelon Form of Matrices Gaussian-Jordan Elimination / Reduced Row Echelon Form of Matrices Matrix operations & determinants
Honors Algebra II	Dividing Polynomials: Long Division & Synthetic Division Conic Sections: Parabolas, Circles, Ellipses, & Hyperbolas Rational Functions Simplifying & Solving Radical & Rational Expressions/Equations	Honors Biology	Photosynthesis and Parts of a Leaf Final Summative Test
Honors Geometry	Special Right Triangles & Right Triangle Trigonometry Area of Polygons Coordinate Geometry Proofs	Honors Physics	Work & Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravitational Potential Energy • Kinetic Energy • Elastic Potential Energy • Conservation of Energy Momentum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of Momentum • Inelastic/Elastic Collisions
Honors Analysis I	Unit Circle Trigonometric evaluations Graphs & transformations of sin/cos functions	Honors Chemistry	Molecular Geometry VSEPR tables 3d modeling of molecules Hybridization Polarity
Honors Analysis II	Preparation for Calculus Limits & continuity Final Exam + Review		



MEK LEARNING CIRCLES | Milestones & Achievements

Critical Reading Circles

Students in grade 6 have read and analyzed 14 articles/stories/poems, and they have written 14 5-paragraph literary analysis essays with a focus on analyzing the ways writing style contributes to and affects the main themes and purposes of the texts. They have also been encouraged to engage in some self-reflection and to make connections with the world and its communities by applying the themes and lessons in the texts to their own lives and choices. Students in grades 7 and 8 have learned how diction contributes to the formal tone of their writing. They have worked on eliminating awkward wording in order to write more cohesive essays with clear details. And students in grade 8 were encouraged to practice taking different types of compositional risks in their writing.

Elaine Z. in Critical Reading 8 received a 5/6 twice in a row on her essays. Way to go, Elaine!

Jaein S. has regularly been scoring 4/5 on her essays in CR5. Way to go, Jaein!

Writing Circles

Students in grades 4 and 5 have completed the seventh and final full essay cycle for a total of 14 essays and a grammar quiz, as well as 14 grammar lessons and practices. At this point, they are able to brainstorm their ideas with more independence and with more creativity in terms of their wording, as they have been encouraged to incorporate figurative language. They have written explanatory, persuasive, descriptive, and narrative essays that reflect their personal interests and memories as well as their increasingly-informed opinions. Students in grades 6 have completed six full essay cycles, two additional essays (a total of 14 essays), and a grammar quiz, as well as 14 grammar lessons and practices.

During Week 7, Kaitlyn P. in Writing 5 scored her first 5/5 on the expository essay “Customs and Traditions.”

Hailey K. in MLC 6 WR scored a 5/6 on her descriptive essay on a memory. Natalie V. in MLC 6 WR scored a 6/6 on her descriptive essay on a memory.

Haweon N. and Siddharth B. in WR7 have been scoring several 5/6s on recent assignments.

Way to go everyone!

Math: Operations & Number Sense / Problem Solving Math Circles

Each class completed their fourth cumulative test by the end of week 8! Each class also completed 1,000+ problems this summer in class and for homework.

Non-Fiction Reading

The students have given their last two presentations: Roe v. Wade and a presentation on a topic of their choosing. The students have been doing independent research on their own topics for the completion of their presentations and have become more comfortable in doing outside research (beyond the given texts) on their last three topics.

Advanced Verbal Reasoning

Students have completed 12 reading and verbal homework assignments, taken 7 vocabulary quizzes, and learned techniques and approaches to all question types (basic fact, main idea, inference, tone, purpose/function, poetry) and all analogy categories (synonym/antonym, degrees and extremes, part to whole, characteristics/lack of characteristics, cause and effect, action/actor/object). They have also completed 6 reading drills and 2 cumulative quizzes.

Advanced Math Applications

Students had their final test week 8, and earlier that week that had a giant review of all topics. In class, students have covered 11 different topics, including comparison problems commonly seen on the ISEE, word problems, exponents and roots, patterns, permutations and combinations, Probability, geometry, measurement conversions, and elementary algebra. A lot of these problems are pulled from the upper ISEE and SSAT questions and serve as a good stepping stone from MLC to faster-paced Exam Prep courses.

Overall, students have completed over 800 problems on homework, classwork, and tests. They have a strong foundation for Pre-Algebra 2 classes (or exam prep), and they have shown consistent hard work on all homework and classwork. The class average for the overall course was 81%.

MAPC

Students in weeks 7 and 8 learned about pattern in Geometry figures, counting principles and probability, and algebraic manipulation in word problems. Students also had a final exam and review.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

HIGH SCHOOL HONORS



DAHNBİ AHN
9TH GRADE
HS ALGEBRA II

“Dahnbi’s motivation as a student is among the strongest I’ve seen. I can tell she’s a perfectionist at heart, as she has scored a perfect 100% on all but three of her 17 math assignments this summer (that includes challenging quizzes and often lengthy homework problem sets, which are not to be taken lightly!). Her persistence and diligence are truly commendable, and I’m excited to see where her strong mindset takes her.”

- Elise Kim, High School Honors Math Teacher

Out of over 600 students, Dahnbi was chosen by her teachers to be Student of the Week because of her relentless perseverance, her dedication, and hard work.

Way to go Dahnbi!

Let’s learn a little bit more about Dahnbi:

What did you like about your class?

I like to learn about new topics every class. I also like my teacher and my classmates. MEK lessons are not too stressful, and it is easy to understand new topics I am learning.

What did you learn in class?

I learned factoring (that is more difficult), logarithms, imaginary numbers, synthetic division, etc. My teacher told the students about tips and tricks to solve math problems quickly which helped me a lot.

What colleges or field of study are you interested in pursuing?

The field of study I plan to pursue in the future is related to business. I’ve wanted to become a marketer since 6-7th grade, and I decided to choose my major as business.

What do you like to do outside of MEK?

I like to read, write, and listen to music outside of MEK. I spend most of the time reading when I am bored or writing a journal, a short story, or a new chapter of a book I am writing while listening to piano music. Also, I go ice-skating with my brother once in a while.

COLLEGE TEST PREP



ERNESTO BONILLA
11TH GRADE
SAT 1400 PM

“Ernesto ranks among the most participatory students I’ve had in recent years. I feel like his hand never goes down over the course of a class. His upbeat and positive attitude is infectious and has, unsurprisingly, resulted in steady and

- Chris Cullen, SAT Prep Teacher

Out of over 600 students, Ernesto was chosen by his teachers to be Student of the Week because of his infectious positivity, consistent participation, and steady progress.

Way to go Ernesto!

Let’s learn a little bit more about Ernesto:

What did you like about your class?

I like the feedback from the simulation tests and the responsiveness of the teachers when I ask questions.

What did you learn in class?

Before I came to MEK, I didn’t know how to complete the writing portion of the SAT. Now, I am doing much better with an organized thought process.

What colleges or field of study do you plan on pursuing in the future?

Although I have not decided about which colleges to apply to, I plan to major in computer science and mathematics.

What do you like to do outside of MEK?

Outside of MEK, I practice kung fu three times a week. I am currently training for the second degree black belt exam. I am also studying programming and participating in computer science competitions. Recently I qualified for the finals of the American Computer Science League.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

MEK LEARNING CIRCLES



NATALIE VADAKKAN

6TH GRADE

MLC WRITING

“Natalie has been a strong writer throughout the course and made numerous adaptations to her writing. She’s incorporated more compositional risks to her essays. In doing so, Natalie’s creativity and diction have skyrocketed.”

- Jose Beltre, MLC 6 Writing Teacher

Out of over 600 students, Natalie was chosen by her teachers to be Student of the Week because of her strong writing skills, outstanding progress, and great participation.

We’re so proud of you Natalie!

Let’s learn a little bit more about Natalie:

What do you like about your MEK classes?

I like how interactive my MEK classes are so far. Every time I learn a new subject, there are always real life examples to help me understand these lessons. Most of them include celebrities or Disney characters. Additionally, I like that my classes always have a positive atmosphere and make me excited to see what’s in store for the day.

What have you learned?

So far, I have learned many topics including how to write persuasive, expository, and descriptive essays. Plus, I have learned how to write narratives and how to use different enhancers in my writing. These include figurative language in narratives and the “modes for persuasion” in expository essays. Also, I have learned other grammar lessons including parts of speech, verb tenses, transitions, and more.

What is your favorite subject in school?

The school subjects I’m most interested in are writing and music. I find writing interesting since I have always found stories fascinating. To specify, I like how descriptive tales can be and how they let me imagine the story elements used in stories. As well as writing, I also enjoy music since I have grown up listening to all kinds of music and as a result has become a part of me now.

What do you like to do outside of MEK?

My favorite hobbies and activities to do outside of MEK are playing the piano, playing the flute, listening to music, drawing, doing Bharatanatyam (south Indian classical dance), singing karaoke, and playing badminton.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

JOSE BELTRE



Jose Beltre, MEK English Teacher, Public School Educator, Fantasy Novel Enthusiast

Jose Beltre is an English teacher at MEK, who teaches Nonfiction Reading, MLC Writing for Grades 6 and 7, and MLC Critical Reading for Grade 8.

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

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

Beltre: I enjoy working with the students. They really want to be here, so they are more inclined to take advice, adapt their practice, and, therefore, see improvements.

Working at MEK is a nice change of pace from my usual work as a Social Studies teacher at a public school. The work at MEK is much more reflective. Through my work here, I've become a better speaker, writer, and overall communicator. MEK helps me develop aspects of my teaching that make me more polished.

I also like MEK's challenging curriculum. There are certain items on the MEK curriculum that are usually glossed over in a public school classroom, like grammar rules. But at MEK, we put an emphasis on grammar and how it connects to writing. We are able to fully explain different grammatical structures, and the students are able to use what we teach to strengthen their writing.

Interviewer: *You mentioned that you're a Social Studies teacher at a public school. Where do you teach?*

Beltre: I teach 7th and 8th grade Social Studies at a public school in West New York. It's actually my home town. The student population is majority Latino from blue collar homes. And the group of students I teach there have a different mindset than the students I teach at MEK.

I usually teach the same group of students for two years. So, I receive them in 7th grade and graduate them as 8th graders. This coming year I have 8th graders. Both grades have their advantages. The 7th graders are a little more malleable, while the 8th graders are more mature.

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

Beltre: Growing up, I loved history. I remember finding my cousin's world history books and reading through them.

Then, when I was in the 8th grade, I had this really wonderful history teacher. She was really phenomenal because she was relatable. I was inspired by her. And it is because of her that I wanted to make history fun and relatable for students. This became my credo and goal during my freshman year of high school. I wanted to take a subject that most students find boring and make it palatable.

I mentioned this to my MLC 7 Writing class when I taught them about compositional risk. As a writer, it is so important to make connections between the work you are analyzing and your interpretation of that work. It's the connection that makes a piece of writing relatable. Same with history. It's important to make connections between the past and the present. And I've found that most times when I do that students will tell me they never thought about a certain event in "that way."

Interviewer: *Are there certain lessons that you love to teach?*

Beltre: At MEK, I enjoy teaching figurative language through the Critical Reading passages and showing students how to develop that skill in their own writing. Those types of lessons encourage students to be creative and think outside the box.

For instance, in my MLC 6 class, we worked on personification. I told them to write the personification of a flower. The assignment was a tough one, but some of the student writing was very good. I like to push the students at MEK out of their comfort zones. They were challenged, and I could see them thinking hard about what to write. They ultimately produced some really amazing pieces. So, teaching figurative language is always fun.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT | JOSE BELTRE (CONT'D)

For MLC Writing, I enjoy teaching students how to write introductions. Even when I was a student, I found it difficult to write a strong introduction and conclusion to an essay. I share my own stories and experiences about the writing journey with students to encourage them. I show them how to write compelling rhetorical questions and interesting facts to open an essay. Then, they work on closing out their essay by relating back to the intro. I consider this my own personal challenge as a writer. And I tell students that if I can do this, then you can do this.

Interviewer: *What is the key to becoming a better writer?*

Beltre: Becoming a better writer takes practice. You need to write as much as possible. It can be an essay, an email, a sentence, a paragraph, or even a note to your parents, but you need to write. Then, you need to look over what you wrote and reflect on it.

You aren't going to write a perfect first draft of an essay. It takes many drafts before an essay is polished. That takes rereading your writing, reflecting on your work, and making the necessary edits to make it great. It's like when you read a book for the first time; you miss things you won't get on subsequent readings. In revising, a writer will see that a sentence may have looked good the first time but realize that it does not fit or needs to be changed after looking it over with a clear eye. With writing, repetition and writing as much as possible are key.

Interviewer: *How do you build students' reading skills?*

Beltre: I try to impress the necessity of writing as you read. Students should use their pens to "talk to the text". I always tell students that a piece of text will give them information but won't tell them what that information is. Therefore, they need to decipher what's important about a work or passage. This means rereading texts to disseminate questions that are posed that they may have missed during a first reading.

If students annotate as they read, the likelihood that they will have to go back into the text frantically looking for an important passage or quote lessens. I show them the skill and encourage them to annotate as much as possible. Whether they are highlighting a passage that didn't make sense or underlining a quote that stood out, I tell them to make a note in the text and go back to it later. If students make a point of doing this, they'll get so much more of the works they are reading.

Interviewer: *How do you build their stamina to keep up with the practice of repeating skills?*

Beltre: That's a team effort. It helps that the other teachers at MEK encourage the same skills and strategies that I use in my classroom. Since everyone is on the same page with utilizing best practices, we are all streamlined, which makes it easier. So, the students get consistent practice with skills no matter which class they are in.

Interviewer: *How do you prepare students in MLC Critical Reading 8 for BCA?*

Beltre: I make sure the essays students are writing tackle BCA prompts. In class, we work on using effective hooks in their introduction and using their thesis statement to make real world connections. Also, we focus on citing and analyzing evidence, then using the analysis of the evidence to connect back to the thesis statement in the intro.

Interviewer: *What's your advice for students taking the BCA admissions test?*

Beltre: The advice I give to my students is to work with the texts you are given to the best of your ability. Use the text to help you create ideas, but don't rely on it heavily. You need to find a happy balance between working the text and using strong evidence in your writing. Explain what the text means in your own words with flair and creativity.

And, of course, practice. Go through the writing process as diligently as possible. Make sure you are catching mistakes.

The writing portion of the BCA exam is a 40 minute section that can make or break a students' ability to join this prestigious public school. The repetition and practice may feel boring and monotonous. But if students use their study sessions the right way and master reading and writing skills, they'll get a huge reward.

Read the rest of the interview here: [Teacher Highlight | Jose Beltre](#)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

ELISE KIM



Elise Kim, MEK Math Teacher,
Hiker, Book Lover

Elise Kim is a Math teacher at MEK, who teaches Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II, MLC Math, SSAT/ISEE test prep, and BCA Prep Math.

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

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

Kim: My favorite part of teaching at MEK is the people I get to work with, students and teachers alike. I've met so many great students. Their motivation motivates me!

I also get to work alongside a team of amazing teachers who are determined to help our students succeed. Their dedication to produce results is inspiring.

Interviewer: *How long have you been working at MEK?*

Kim: I've been with MEK for four years. Originally, I planned to take a gap year after college before starting dental school. But right after I graduated with my undergraduate degree, I started working here part time. I enjoyed teaching with MEK so much that I ended up taking a full time position.

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

Kim: I grew up in this area and was really lucky to have great teachers throughout my life that I looked up to. Especially because being a student was such a huge part of my life, that was so valuable. It was thanks to them that I was able to graduate as valedictorian of my high school and become the first in my family to go to college, despite my family's financial struggles. I feel that teaching is my way of giving back.

Interviewer: *What inspired your interest in dentistry?*

Kim: I'd always wanted to work in health care. Dentistry was interesting to me because it's very hands-on. It's an art. You're sculpting teeth and helping people gain confidence through their smile. I like that the work is very visible and has an immediate positive impact on the person you're working with.

Interviewer: *Like dentistry, building confidence in students is a big part of teaching. How can students build math skills and boost their confidence?*

Kim: The most important thing students can do to build math skills is to practice what they learn in class outside of class. Students cannot have the mindset that simply attending class is enough to understand concepts sufficiently. Becoming a strong math student requires ample time applying learned strategies to a variety of problem types during independent study sessions. Students must review their notes and practice what they learned in order to see progress. That's when the confidence comes, when they know they've put in effort into driving their own progress and see that their understanding has improved because of it. I always try to make my students feel comfortable reaching out for help as well. I tell them that everyone learns at a different pace, so it's important to take advantage of extra help sessions with the teacher if something isn't clicking.

Interviewer: *Along with MLC, you also teach BCA Prep math. What sets BCA Prep apart from other programs?*

Kim: The BCA Prep program sets high expectations for students. The best I can describe it is tough love. We don't want to accept anything but the best from our students because it is their futures that are being built, and we work with young minds at an age where some are not yet experienced with disciplining and dedicating themselves toward such a significant concrete goal (in this case, admission into top high schools). We teach students how to apply specific, proven strategies when encountering challenging

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT | REBEKAH SHORE (CONT'D)

question types, help them build test endurance through a strong mindset, and instill reliable study habits that we hope they will carry with them long after their time in the program is completed.

Interviewer: *Earlier you mentioned taking a gap year between college and dental school. Do you have any advice for students applying to college?*

Kim: I'd say to start looking into colleges early. Don't do what I did, which was to start all my college applications during winter break of senior year! Since I was the first in my family to go to college, I was overwhelmed by my lack of knowledge and where to begin. Reach out to teachers and counselors. Look into schools that are compatible with your personality and your goals. Once you become really invested in a few schools, you will have a better idea of what to work towards and that excitement and motivation can make for a stronger personal statement when applying

Interviewer: *Where did you go to school?*

Kim: I went to Swarthmore College. It's a small liberal arts college in the suburbs of Philadelphia, which was just the right fit for me. Swat has a unique arrangement along with Haverford College, Bryn Mawr College, and UPenn where students are actually able to take courses from all four schools, which was an incredible opportunity.

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

Kim: I've been exploring a lot of different interests. For a few years I took up kickboxing and was really obsessed with it. Then a couple of years ago my friend dragged me along to my first intense hike, and I've been hiking whenever I get the chance ever since. I also play tennis and recently fell back in love with reading.

Interviewer: *Do you have any book recommendations for students?*

Kim: I'm sure students have tons of classic literature or nonfiction texts being recommended to them. Outside of those, I think graphic novels are underrated. There are actually some really wonderful graphic novel adaptations of classic novels like *Animal Farm* and *The Great Gatsby*.

One great read would be *Maus* by Art Spiegelman. It's a nonfiction work that illustrates, literally, conversations that the author had with his father, who survived the Holocaust. It also serves as a memoir as it depicts the author's complicated relationship with his father. The story is very impactful and well told.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FROM MEK MATH TUTORS

It's back to school season and students are gearing up for the coming school year. If you're going into 7th or 8th grade, you may be preparing for the math section of the BCA or other high school admissions tests. Soon-to-be high school juniors will be brushing up their math skills for the SAT or ACT. Our expert academic counselors and team of passionate MEK teachers are here to help you start your year strong.

Here are top tips from MEK's expert math tutors for students of all grades so you can ace your classes and get top test scores:

REBEKAH SHORE GRADE 4 MATH

Memorize your math multiplication facts!

If you have up to the ten times table memorized, then try up to 12 or 15.

Always have a positive attitude towards math.

Never give up when problems become challenging!

Try to understand math rather than just doing it.

It helps to explain your problem solving process out loud, as if you were teaching your classmates.

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

JESSICA CONLON GRADE 5 MATH

Make sure you have a good notebook just for math and all other school supplies you need.

When your teacher introduces a new type of problem, you can copy down an example in your notebook with a short explanation of how to solve it. It's never too early to start taking notes!

Math gets easier when you remember old topics.

Think about the things you learned last year. Do you remember how to add and subtract fractions? How to solve word problems with money and making change? How to find a rectangle's perimeter and area?

Do you have your times tables memorized?

If you're not sure, try reviewing them a few times before school starts! Knowing your times tables from 1 through 10, or from



1 through 12, will make harder multiplication and division problems much easier to solve.

KOURTNEY ESKINS GRADE 6 MATH

Review previously learned topics.

Students should review the following topics: multi-digit operations, decimal operations and percent problems, fraction operations, and recall area & perimeter formulas for squares and rectangles.

Develop a homework routine.

You will get a lot more homework. Don't wait until the last minute to get started on homework or projects.

Be persistent.

Word problems will be more difficult in grade 6. Break down complicated problems by identifying keywords.

Participate in class.

Ask for help if you don't understand the question or the assignment.

PRANAV GUPTA ALGEBRA 1

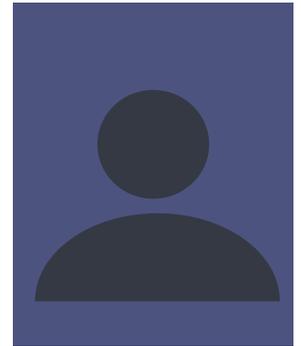
Appreciate the power of the "equal" sign.

A big part of Algebra 1 is to find missing quantities in a balanced equation. Don't follow a recipe, but rather stick to the basic principle that what is done on one side of the equation must be done to the other!

Another big part of Algebra 1 is visualizing solutions through graphs!

Make an effort to make a connection between the equations and what the graphs look like. Being able to graph using intuition will be a key asset in all levels of math that follows Algebra 1.

Understand, don't memorize!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FROM MEK MATH TUTORS

ELISE KIM GEOMETRY

Keep organized notes.

Honors Geometry courses require precise reasoning with tons of definitions, postulates, and theorems. Having those readily accessible will prevent you from getting overwhelmed and facilitate efficient studying. Create a master list for yourself early on and add on to it throughout the semester as you learn more tools.



Review consistently.

When getting comfortable with the highly technical use of definitions, postulates, and theorems, it's more beneficial to review frequently a little at a time rather than infrequently in bulk. Even setting aside just a few minutes a day or every other day to review your notes will help out tremendously in retaining all that information.

Get into an argument!

Okay, not seriously, but here's why it's relevant. A big part of most honors geometry curricula relies on logical reasoning, i.e. constructing rigorous mathematical arguments where we start from limited given information and must prove a subsequent statement. These are called mathematical "proofs."

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Honors Geometry courses are usually the first course in which students are introduced to the concept of proofs. It's very common to struggle at first, so your teacher will understand if you need extra help. You just need to ask.

KARINA SOTO ALGEBRA 2

Review inequalities with one variable.

Review systems of linear equations.

Don't forget geometry because it will come back! Review your rectangles, triangles, circles, etc.

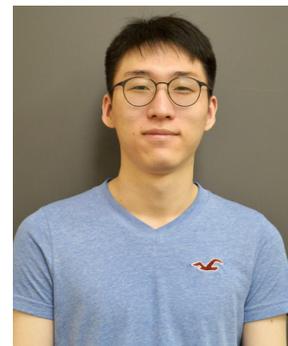
Remember how to graph linear and quadratic functions.



MINJAE PARK PRE-CALCULUS

Focus on the relationship between the variables and quantities for a given problem.

For example, trigonometric functions and inverse trigonometric functions are a major unit of pre-calculus which requires an understanding of the relationship between length and angle. By definition, the inverse of trigonometric functions should take the ratio of lengths as input and in turn produce an angle value as an output. While algebra focuses on working with variables, calculus focuses on the behavior of functions, so it is important to understand relationships.



Focus on honing the tools you learn in class.

Pre-calculus provides specific tools that are based off of relationships learned in algebra and expand on them to prepare students for more complex problem-solving required for calculus.

DEMIR RADONCIC CALCULUS

It's more important to stay ahead than keep up.

Study ahead.

If you are given a syllabus and you know what topics will be covered in class during the following week, it would behoove you to take 1-2 hours on the weekend reading those pages and getting ahead.



TONY KIM AP CALCULUS AB

Revisit topics.

You've learned most of the concepts that will be taught in your school math class already. Revisiting those topics will be a great opportunity to make your core skills stronger.



Study your school quizzes for the tests.

Homework will most likely be questions from your textbooks, but teachers usually make quizzes and tests (or at least get those from the same resource).

Start looking at AP Calc AB test questions.

You will not be able to solve all the questions yet, but start solving the ones you are able to and make sure to fully

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FROM MEK MATH TUTORS

understand those. You want to master topics one at a time as you review them in school so you do not have to cram everything in the month of April.

NICHOLAS LANG
AP CALCULUS BC

Focus on the fundamental concepts.

In calculus, you need to understand the concepts in class and why you are using each equation, technique, and formula, not just how to use them.



Pay attention to the graphs.

It is important to understand how algebraic manipulation and functions affect the shape, directions, and behavior of a graph.

Brush up on trigonometry!

It comes up constantly in calculus. You need to have your identities, evaluations, graphs, rules, and techniques from trigonometry on hand at all times to do well in calculus.

Practice constantly.

To master BC Calculus, do as many exercises as you can to expose yourself to a variety of problems.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FROM MEK ENGLISH TUTORS

KATHY KIM
GRADE 4 ENGLISH

Be open-minded to learning!

Different subjects, cultures, and genres are all around us. Having this mindset will allow us to grow and become more well-rounded and creative people.

Have a positive attitude in school and at home!

Making strong relationships is always beneficial for everyone's personal, academic, and professional growth. We need to learn how to support others and be supported.

Always put your best effort into everything you do!

Trying to look cool is not cool and making the best use of our time is so important. We must study hard and then give ourselves the time to play even harder afterwards!

MALEK CHARCHOUR
GRADE 5 ENGLISH

Engage with your ideas and perspective.

Pay attention to the points that interest you or stand out to you. These will be key in developing a thesis that engages both you and your reader.



Develop your writing voice.

Find your writing voice by exposing yourself to a variety of styles and ideas through reading, writing exercises...etc. Try to develop a personal relationship with writing through journaling or freewriting, and enjoy the freedom in expressing yourself.

Ask yourself questions when writing and approaching a text.

Listen to your questions as well as those of your peers and consider what a text might show or suggest about themes, events, the writer/narrator, characters, and the world. Always try to find connections.

Focus on developing your ideas and arguments when writing.

The most important step in essay writing is listening to your ideas and expressing them in a way that is detailed and specific. Show your readers how unique and important your perspective is. Tone and grammar will become more important as your writing develops.

Always listen to and engage with the questions and ideas of others.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FROM MEK ENGLISH TUTORS

JOSE BELTRE
GRADE 6 & 7 ENGLISH

Read as much as possible.

Reading does not just apply to books. Comics, magazines, sports articles, newspapers, and cookbooks all apply. By exposing yourself to various types of readings, you'll be exposed to various reading conventions, vocabulary, and literary devices.



Annotate the text.

If you're assigned to read a text, take notes as you read. For some, annotation might be tedious. But reading comprehension and inference skills improve if a student makes a point to highlight things that stand out or are difficult to understand.

Have a thesaurus/dictionary handy.

This is good for two reasons:

First, if a student comes across a word that context clues can't help, then a dictionary will help them understand the word.

Second, by the time a student enters middle school, they have been exposed to tons of vocabulary that will help improve their essay writing. If a student is trying to say something in a different way, they can use a thesaurus as a reference to find a word that they may have forgotten. Thus, they'll be able to use that word in writing more frequently and more comfortably.

VICTORIA MURANO
GRADE 8 ENGLISH

Read!

The more you read, the more vocabulary and writing styles you'll pick up. Reading is like exercise for your brain, and by "exercising" on a regular basis, you'll be able to tackle the complex pieces of literature you'll be analyzing in your English classes.



Participate in class!

Even if you tend to be shy (like I was in school!), making an effort to participate in class not only helps you come out of your shell, which is important in itself, but also provides you with many benefits. Active participation helps you interact with the material more and thus, you can better understand it.

Build a positive rapport with your teacher!

This is in line with participating in class, since this is a good way to show your teacher you care about their class. If you develop a good relationship with your teacher, they will be

more willing to help you out with things like recommendation letters in the future.

If you need help, don't be afraid to speak up!

Your teacher is there to help you. Meeting them for office hours or even sending them a quick email will greatly help you grasp any concepts that may be confusing you. Also, just like when you participate in class, asking for help shows your teacher you care and want to get the most out of their class.

CATHERINE ANDREOLA
GRADE 9 ENGLISH

Take active responsibility over your education.

Ninth grade is a transitional year between middle school and high school. The next four years will serve to establish much of what you will pursue in the future. As such, it is important to complete your assignments on time and present your best work. Homework is a way for you to reinforce your skills and it will determine your success early on.



Establish good relationships with your teachers and classmates.

Pursue extracurricular activities.

Don't be afraid to sign up for clubs or interest groups. You will find great opportunities to interact with other classmates, forge new friendships, and discover hobbies.

Above all, remember to also let yourself breathe once in a while.

Don't stress unnecessarily and make sure to have ample time to learn more about yourself.

CHRIS CULLEN
GRADE 10 & 11 ENGLISH

Read and write every day.

Do this for yourself, not just for your classes. Yes, you'll have to read books and write essays for school, but discovering authors independently and finding your own unique writing voice will help you develop a more personal relationship with the written word.

This way, you'll find the very acts of reading and writing less daunting when you're "forced" to do so.

Be an autodidact.

As you progress through high school, independence will be a recurring theme. So why not take ownership over what you learn? Whether it's learning a foreign language, a musical



BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS FROM MEK ENGLISH TUTORS

instrument, or a new cooking skill, see where your curiosities take you and immerse yourself in the unknown. Those variegated aspects of your personality will eventually reveal themselves in the classroom and beyond.

Stay true to your passions.

It's easy to get lost in the whirlwind of homework, extracurriculars, and other everyday responsibilities. Still, it's important to not lose sight of yourself and what makes you tick. So manage your time accordingly and do those things that make you smile.

RACHEL ERWIN AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE

Try to get the class reading list in advance.

If you have the reading list, you can not only get a jump start on the reading, but also see where you can supplement some other works that you will read independently. The more you read these types of texts throughout the year, the easier they will be able to deal with on the official test and the better you will do in the class itself.



Start looking into specific vocabulary you will need, especially for AP English Language.

There are a lot of rhetorical terms you should become familiar with. The earlier you start learning these, the better.

Form a good relationship with your teacher from day one.

AP Lit and Lang are not easy classes or tests, and you want to be very clear with your teacher what will be expected of you, especially in terms of essay writing.

NEXT STEPS

Do any of these tutors resonate with you? Fall tutoring registration is open now!

Our Tutoring Programs offer one-on-one support to students looking to reach their academic or admissions goals. Expert instructors create individualized plans based on your school course materials, timelines for achievement, and milestones for success. And with School Support Tutoring, Academic Enrichment, and Private Test Prep, MEK has solutions to fit the needs of every student.

Seats are limited, so act fast!



WHAT'S NEXT

FALL 2022 REGISTRATION

TODAY is the last day of our Early Bird Discount! Limited seats are still available.

RECEIVE \$50 MEK CREDIT!

We want to hear all about your time as part of the MEK family!

Leave us a review on Google and talk about your experience with us, from the courses you loved to the service you received. Then, email mek@mekreview.com with a screenshot of your posted review or, if you're on campus, show us your review in person to redeem a \$50 credit toward MEK courses!

Every word helps us create the best possible learning experience for your child. Let us know how we're doing!

REMINDER: CANVAS CLOSING

Students can submit late assignments until Friday, September 2nd. But students must email teachers when submitting anything after August 26th so their instructor can follow up in a timely manner.

Makeup videos will be accessible on Canvas until September 2nd. Starting September 3rd, we will unpublish make-up videos from Canvas courses so they will no longer be accessible to students on Canvas. Please make sure to download anything you want to save from the Canvas platform.

FREE SAT BONUS PACKAGE

For students who register for Fall SAT Prep with MEK Review by August 26th, we will be offering the following additional solutions to make sure that you are on track with your test prep:

- Two (2) virtually proctored practice exams
- Live Q&A sessions with MEK SAT Prep teachers (1 hour Math, 1 hour English) to review practice exams
- Test Prep Plan consultation meetings with Mr. Tony Kim and/or Ms. Rachel Erwin (30 minutes)
- College Admissions consultation meeting with Ms. Jaehee Ahn, Director of Academic Counseling Services (1 hour)

SAT Virtual Live Q&A Sessions:

- September 1st at 1:00 PM or September 2nd at 1:00 PM
- September 6th at 4:00 PM or September 7th at 4:00 PM

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

FINAL WORDS

This is the last issue of our 2022 Summer Newsletter. We have loved sharing with parents the amazing journey students have taken this semester. And can't wait to see you in the fall!



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