



MAINE PREP

Update

Winter/Spring
2008

What's New in Test Preparation

Upcoming Maine Prep SAT Classes 2007-2008

FOR THE JANUARY 26 SAT

Brunswick: November 28 - January 23

(Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Lewiston/Auburn: November 25 - January 20

(Sundays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

FOR THE MARCH 1 SAT

Bangor: January 27 - February 27

(Sun & Wed, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Brunswick: January 27 - February 27

(Sun & Wed, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Cape Elizabeth: January 28 - February 28

(Mon & Thurs, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

FOR THE APRIL 12 ACT

Cape Elizabeth: March 6 - April 10

(6 classes: Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

FOR THE MAY 3 SAT

Bangor: March 2 - April 27

(Sundays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Brunswick: March 4 - April 29

(Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Brunswick: March 30 - April 30

(Sun & Wed, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Cape Elizabeth: March 3 - April 28

(Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Cape Elizabeth: March 26 - April 30

(Mon & Wed, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Kennebunk: March 4 - April 29

(Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Lewiston/Auburn: March 2 - April 27

(Sundays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

CLASS LOCATIONS:

Bangor - O'Donnell Commons,
Husson College, 1 College Circle

Brunswick - Maine Prep, 103 Harpswell Rd.

Cape Elizabeth - Cape Elizabeth H.S.,
345 Ocean House Rd.

Kennebunk - Kennebunk H.S.,
89 Fletcher St.

Lewiston - Chamber of Commerce offices,
KeyBank Plaza, 415 Lisbon St.

To register for all locations

call (207) 798-5690

or email info@maineprep.com

Maine Prep Trains Teachers at Cape Elizabeth High School: SAT PREP IS NOW PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Maine Prep recently trained teachers at Cape Elizabeth High School to help their students raise their SAT reading and writing scores. In addition, Cape has licensed Maine Prep's user-friendly TEN FOR TEN® curriculum, which helps students learn successful SAT strategies and techniques. The SAT prep sessions, which take place in the school's Achievement Center, are free and offered during the school day.

According to CEHS teacher Lisa Melanson, Ph.D., a participant in the Maine Prep teacher training, SAT prep tutorials are now in full swing. Dr. Melanson works in the Achievement Center, where students can walk in and get help in all academic subjects including online tutorials, one-on-one tutoring, writing conferences, and SAT prep. "In terms of getting the new Maine Prep program off the ground, thus far I've worked in small groups with seniors who plan to take the SAT. These students come in during their "frees" or study halls. It's worked well since it is self-paced and the students seem to be highly motivated."

Cape Elizabeth is among several schools in Maine, including South Portland, Messalonskee, Skowhegan, Deering and Bridgton, whose teachers have been trained by Maine Prep and who have taught SAT prep using Maine Prep materials. These schools are models for how quality SAT instruction can be offered to students during the school day as well as after school hours.



Maine Prep continues to offer private evening SAT prep classes at Cape Elizabeth High School throughout the year. Sharon Merrill, Head of Guidance at CEHS says, "We have seen our students benefit from this experience by getting higher scores and becoming more confident standardized test takers."

> Dr. Lisa Melanson works with three Cape Elizabeth students on SAT preparation. Cape uses the Maine Prep TEN FOR TEN® SAT curriculum

Maine Prep Expands to Bangor and Lewiston

Maine Prep has expanded its business to include SAT classes in Bangor and the greater Lewiston/Auburn area. Two new teachers have been hired to meet the demands of additional classes, Susan Wong of Lewiston and Dr. Frank Hubbard of Bangor.

Susan Wong attended Bates College, earning a BA in mathematics and Maine teacher certification. She taught math at Holy Cross School in Lewiston, where she coached the successful math team and chaired the math curriculum review committee. She is also an experienced SAT prep teacher in Lewiston. Susan is married to Peter Wong, Chair of the Bates College Mathematics Department. They have four children.

Susan reports from Lewiston, "Preparing for SAT tests requires a very different approach than most students use in studying for standard high school courses. Students in my Lewiston SAT class are successfully learning to use Maine Prep techniques to raise their confidence levels and improve their SAT scores."

Frank Hubbard, Ph.D., is a graduate of Amherst College and the University of California at Berkeley. He has had a Fulbright in Finland and a teaching stint in Gaza City, in the Palestinian territories. Dr. Hubbard, currently the Dean of the School of Science and Humanities at Husson College in Bangor, has been instructing in collegiate settings for more than 30 years. He is also an experienced test preparation teacher, having taught SAT, ACT, GRE, and GMAT.

The Lewiston/Auburn classes are held in the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce offices at KeyBank Plaza, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston; Bangor classes take place in the Libra Room, O'Donnell Commons, on the Husson College campus in Bangor.

In addition to Bangor and Lewiston, Maine Prep teaches SAT prep classes in Brunswick, Bridgton, Cape Elizabeth, Kennebunk, and Kents Hill. Maine Prep also teaches LSAT prep at Bowdoin College.

"We want you to know how much we appreciate the many ways in which you helped our daughter hone her test taking skills and boost her self confidence. No doubt the skills you taught her will be of great value to her during her college years."

INGRID AND BILL STRESSENGER, CAPE ELIZABETH



Sam York,
Freeport High School:

"I thought the Maine Prep course was I felt so prepared. The program

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The SAT is not a tricky test



Now that drivers' education is mandatory, it seems that there are only two times in our lives when we are expected to do our best with minimal training: the SAT and raising children. Just as Lamaze class didn't prepare me for the complexity of raising teenagers, so nothing in my schooling prepared me for the kind of thinking necessary to do my best on standardized tests.

The people who write the SAT want you to get every problem right if you know what you're doing. The SAT will survive as long as colleges consider its numbers reasonable; so, why would the SAT present problems intended to confound better students and reward lesser ones? Doesn't make sense, does it?

The SAT tests familiar skills in unfamiliar ways. For instance, nearly every high school student can calculate an average ("Five people built 25 houses; what was the average number of houses each person built?") so the SAT asks such a question in a different way: ("Five people built an average of five houses each. If every person built at least one house, what is the greatest number of houses that one builder could have built?") Pretty tough, but consider: If students really understand the relationship between average and total, they should be able to convert either to the other and so solve this problem. What if they can't? Should we blame the SAT?

The SAT identifies those who think well on their feet. Test takers must answer questions that are closely based on less-than-thrilling passages; they must calculate (mostly fifth- to ninth-grade) math problems that require flexing arithmetic, algebra, and geometry muscles that haven't been flexed in a while. Students who enter such a test cold often are filled with the sort of panic we get when we know that we know something but just can't remember what it is.

So, just as we shouldn't end our commitment to our children with T. Berry Brazelton or "What to Expect When You're Expecting," so we as well as they need to come to grips with this difficult but essentially fair test. **Jack Mahoney**

The Maine Prep Way

The Maine Prep SAT course is specially designed to teach students strategies and techniques to use in the math, writing, and reading sections of the SAT. Students learn math mechanics as well as how the test maker constructs questions; a faster and more accurate way to read Critical Reading passages and answer the questions; and a newly developed step-by-step procedure that helps students organize and write a successful essay. Students receive detailed evaluations of several of their practice essays.

Maine Prep students train using real SATs as well as the company's own successful curriculum, TEN FOR TEN®, in which math, writing, and reading exercises are gathered into themed sets with easy-to-understand explanations. Maine Prep's TEN FOR TEN® curriculum has helped hundreds of Maine test takers post SAT scores that better reflect their potential as college students.

Maine Prep at a Glance

- PREPS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THE SAT, SAT SUBJECT TESTS, AND THE ACT
- PROVIDES PRIVATE CLASSES AND COACHING SESSIONS
- PROVIDES SAT INSTRUCTION IN HIGH SCHOOLS
- PROVIDES ITS OWN TEN FOR TEN® USER-FRIENDLY CURRICULUM
- TRAINS HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS TO HELP THEIR STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE SAT
- PROVIDES MATERIALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS TO USE IN SAT PREP INSTRUCTION
- PREPS COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR THE LSAT, GMAT AND GRE

> Dugan Slovenski helps a Yarmouth student prepare for the SAT

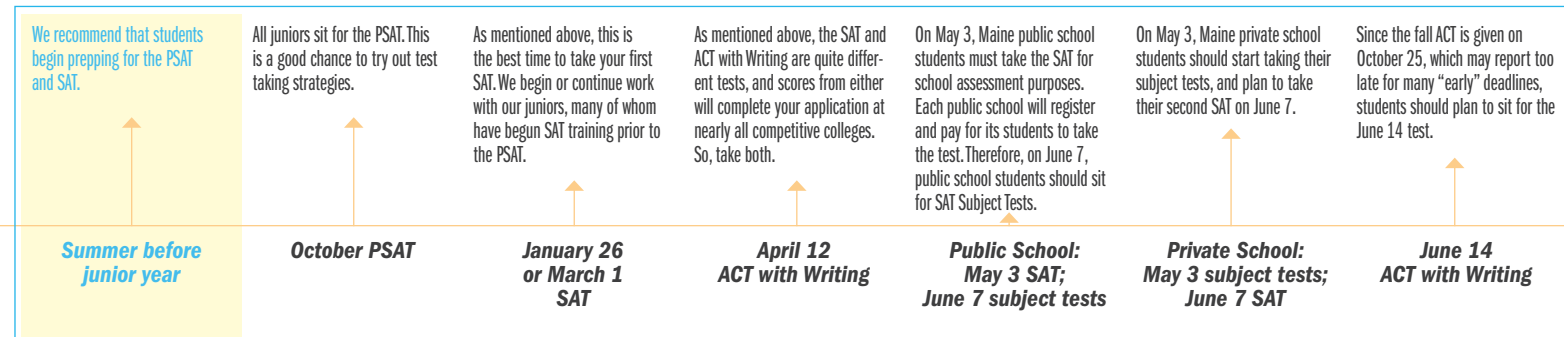


RETHINK Your College Admissions Testing TIMELINE

Using this testing timeline is likely to maximize your college admissions chances while minimizing stress. Dates used herein are relevant to the 2007-2008 academic year.

Notes: Many competitive colleges require two or three SAT Subject Tests (formerly "SAT II's"); please consult each college's web site. Also, nearly all competitive colleges now accept ACT with Writing scores in lieu of not only SAT but also SAT Subject Test scores.

Also, and **this is very important**, we recommend that our students take their first SAT in the winter of junior year (January or March) because "early" deadlines have shortened the fall SAT season.



incredible.
has given me a 250 point overall score increase!"



Test Prep Tips for Students and Parents

* **Begin your test prep early.** Prep for the PSAT and SAT the summer before your junior year. Go online to research the admissions requirements for your top 10 college choices.

* **Take your first SAT in January or March of your junior year.** For those applying Early Decision, this gives you more testing options before the "early" deadline. This also gives you time to get additional test prep help before the May SAT.

* **Consider applying Early.** Every selective college admits a higher percentage of early decision and early action applicants than of regular applicants. So, applying early provides a significant admissions advantage, approximately equivalent to the effect of a jump of 100 points in SAT score. (From *The Early Admissions Game* by Avery et al.)

* **Take both the SAT and the ACT with Writing.** The vast majority of competitive colleges now accept ACT with Writing scores in lieu of not only SAT but also SAT Subject Test scores. Maine Prep students who have completed the SAT course or SAT private tutoring need approximately three additional prep sessions to be prepared for the ACT.

Kudos for South Portland High School!

FROM "LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD"
BY JESSICA KAPLAN

South Portland High School is, in many ways, a visionary high school. More than three full years before the State of Maine acted to make the SAT mandatory for all juniors, SPHS began to offer an SAT prep elective as part of the high school curriculum. The significance and impact of inviting all students, regardless of means, to reap the benefits of a structured test prep program is inspiring. I have had the great pleasure of teaching that SAT prep class from its inception.

We all know that preparing for any important event increases the likelihood of doing well. The SAT is no different. Preparation helps. It is a delight to be in a place where that help is available, free-of-charge, to every single student.

Jessica Kaplan, a graduate of Bowdoin College and Stanford Law School, teaches SAT and LSAT preparation for Maine Prep, and uses the Maine Prep curriculum for her SPHS SAT classes.

Congratulations, Maine Prep Students!

Natasha Barritt, Portland - USC
 Matt Bishop, Cape Elizabeth - Clemson
 Nelson Bruns, Gray - RPI
 Joe Canarie, South Portland - Arizona S.U.
 Ashley Cimino, Yarmouth - Stanford
 Sarah Delaney, Falmouth - Colorado College
 Peter Devine, Portland - Penn
 Sam Dunning, Brunswick - NYU
 Francis Ellis, Yarmouth - Harvard
 Carl Elsaesser, Brunswick - Hampshire
 Heather Furman, Cape Elizabeth - Harvard
 Zach Garcia, Brunswick - UMO
 Colin Geiger, Bath - Stonehill
 Dan Goldstein, Cape Elizabeth - Colby
 David Griffin, Manchester - U. of Western New England
 Kristen Hess, Falmouth - U. of Virginia
 Kaiti Jones, Portland - Belmont Univ.
 Rusty Leonard, Cape Elizabeth - Colorado College
 Chris MacColl, Cape Elizabeth - Kenyon
 Parker Marvin, Cape Elizabeth - Johnson and Wales
 Kate McLaughlin, Scarborough - Lehigh
 Rachael Meyer, South Portland - Bryn Mawr
 Henry Mills, Brunswick - Williams
 Meghan Morrell, Brunswick - Simmons
 Brendan Nicholas, Cape Elizabeth - Bryant
 Brianna O'Connor, Brunswick - Hartwick
 Shane Riley, Brunswick - Maine Maritime Acad.
 Jackie Rosner, Brunswick - UVM
 Molly Schaffner, Brunswick - Smith
 Nora Sharp, Brunswick - U. of Oregon
 Alex Standen, Freeport - Penn
 James Sterling, Freeport - Univ. of Denver
 Aimee Tetu, Brunswick - Bentley
 John Underwood, Bath - Dartmouth
 Nathaniel Wellin, Falmouth - UC Santa Barbara

We'd like to include you in our next newsletter. Please email your college plans to info@maineprep.com.

Notes from the new BANGOR CLASS

My impression is that the Bangor-area students seem to me more mature than I expected. They examine the strategies critically, and adapt them to their own methods, and seem to be making great improvement. Probably the most improvement has been emotional, that they are no longer intimidated by the way the SAT asks questions. Scary vocabulary is less worrying, and scary math problems seem to get them to work step by step to the conclusion. That's very encouraging, because a lot of the SAT seems to me to depend on pitching questions in ways students haven't seen before.

I asked the students to give me some feedback, and here's some of what I got:

"It's definitely helping me raise my scores."

"I've learned to read more carefully, especially directions, and take more time to assess the answers."

"I really like the essay feedback."

"Indexing (a Maine Prep reading strategy) and reviewing have really helped a lot."

"I've been doing all the problems to the best of my ability, coming to class and participating, and trying to ask and answer questions. I feel like I am improving."

By Dr. Frank Hubbard, Bangor SAT teacher

The last SAT administration for which "early" applicants can sit will fall in early October 2008. Students can take either the SAT or SAT Subject Tests on this date.

For those pursuing "regular" admission, the ACT with Writing will be given on October 25.

For those pursuing "regular" admission, the SAT and SAT Subject Tests will be given twice more before most "regular" deadlines.

October SAT or subject tests

October 25 ACT (optional)

October and November SAT or subject tests (optional)

From a College Counselor

"I love working with Jack and Jessica. I think one of their greatest strengths is taking the comprehensive Maine Prep curriculum and tailoring it to the specific needs of their students."

KATE CLEMENT OF COLLEGE GUIDANCE, A COLLEGE COUNSELING ORGANIZATION

> Susan Wong, fourth from left, is flanked by her Lewiston Maine Prep students



Our Mission:

To help Maine students raise standardized test scores and be more competitive when applying for college admission and financial aid.

Teacher Training: A Great Way to Help Students Raise SAT Scores

Maine Prep offers teacher training to schools that would like to help their students raise their SAT scores and be more competitive when applying for college admissions and merit-based financial aid.

For its comprehensive teacher-training program, Maine Prep offers:

- (1) The Maine Prep TEN FOR TEN® curriculum, which consists of over 800 real SAT problems organized into themed exercises; and
- (2) Maine Prep master instructors.

During teacher training sessions, Maine Prep trainers demonstrate how teachers can use the TEN FOR TEN® curriculum to teach students the strategies and techniques necessary for success in the SAT math, reading, and writing sections.

Our methods are easily taught in after-school or curricular programs. In fact, South Portland High School, which has offered SAT preparation as a curricular elective for three years, uses Maine Prep materials and techniques as a large part of its successful program.

In recent years we have trained faculty members at Cape Elizabeth High School, Messalonskee High School, Skowhegan Area High School, Mt. Ararat High School, Deering High School, and Bridgton Academy. We are currently training teachers at Lewiston High School.

To schedule teacher-training sessions for your school, contact Maine Prep at 798-5690.

"While the curriculum has proven effective, it's the quality of Maine Prep's instruction that stands out. Eight teachers comprise the staff, each with impressive backgrounds in education."

Brandon Carter, *The Coastal Journal*

The Maine Prep Faculty

Frank Hubbard, Ph.D., a graduate of Amherst and UC Berkeley, is Dean of Science and Humanities at Husson College in Bangor.

Jessica Kaplan, a graduate of Bowdoin College and Stanford Law School, administers and teaches a curricular SAT course for South Portland High School.

Jack Mahoney taught all major tests and trained teacher recruits at Stanley H. Kaplan's New York City headquarters. Jack founded Maine Prep in 2002.

Dugan Slovinski is a Stanford graduate who holds a teaching certificate from Bates College.

Susan Thombs graduated summa cum laude from Stonehill College and teaches English at Deering High School.

Kathryn Toppan holds degrees in Psychology and English and teaches AP English at Deering High School.

Karen Vellekamp received her Master of Science degree from UNH. She has taught math and SAT prep in Maine and New Hampshire for over 20 years.

Susan Wong, a Bates grad, taught at Lewiston's Holy Cross School for ten years. Susan holds a teacher certification in mathematics

SAT Scores May Be MORE IMPORTANT Than Grades

"The formula used by the Ivies when assessing academic excellence is to weigh 1/3 grades, 1/3 SAT scores, and 1/3 SAT subject test scores. A good number of top-tier colleges use a version of that formula."

MICHELE HERNANDEZ, FORMER DARTMOUTH ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

TEST DATES 2008 >>>>>

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION SAT	LATE REGISTRATION
JANUARY 26	DECEMBER 26	JANUARY 4
MARCH 1	JANUARY 29	FEBRUARY 7
MAY 3	APRIL 1	APRIL 10
JUNE 7	MAY 6	MAY 15
	ACT	
FEBRUARY 9	JANUARY 4	JANUARY 18
APRIL 12	MARCH 7	MARCH 21
JUNE 14	MAY 9	MAY 23



> Jack talks about SAT strategies with a Cumberland student

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