

Handle-gram

New Program

I am pleased to announce that Handle Associates will offer another instructional program this fall. Entitled “Advanced Subjects,” it will support and supplement students’ efforts for several SAT Subject Tests and Advanced Placement courses. These include the SAT subject tests in English literature, Math (levels 1&2), Biology (E&M), Chemistry, and Physics as well as Calculus. Like the other programs, this one will offer private instruction. The program will meet on Mondays. Please contact me for details and fee schedule.

Special Subjects

Mondays: 2:30-7:00

Test Preparation

Tuesdays, 2:30-7:00

Essential Skills

Wednesdays 2:30-6:00

Saturdays 10:00-1:00

Writing Program & Study Skills-

Thursdays-Guilford 2:30-7:00

Free Presentation

I will offer a presentation entitled, “The Journey to College” on Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 pm at the Guilford Free Library. I will provide information regarding the following topics:

- how and when to begin the college search
- testing options
- how to design a realistic college list
- deadlines
- and more.

This event is open to the public (yes, including high school students), so invite friends.

How is my child doing?

If you’ve asked yourself this question, and you’d like to know where your child stands nationally, you can have her take a national test. These include the SSAT, ISEE, and ACT Explore, which are used for private & parochial school admission. They provide detailed information on scores and percentile rankings. I administer the SSAT, so see me for more information.

Where’s the Rigor?

(For the full text, go to my blog: handleoneducation.blogspot.com, or visit the Patch-Branford)

The most recent SAT results present troubling news. Last year’s seniors have the dubious distinction of having the lowest verbal scores in forty years. . . writing declined two points to 489 and reading dropped three points

to 497. These statistics should cause English teachers to pause and reflect. Changing the curriculum to include more rigorous reading and writing standards now appears crucial.

Unfortunately, the “literature” assigned in many English classrooms tends toward popular fiction. As I perused the summer reading list in my local library, I became distressed to see the suggestions. While *Water for Elephants* may pose light diversion, it lacks the *gravitas* that one would expect for students entering a senior year honors English course. . . Even a cursory look at British and American novels written in the eighteenth or nineteenth century indicates much more complicated sentence structure, broader themes, and more opportunity for philosophical discussion

Furthermore, high school English teachers should teach the English language. Students learn to manipulate language by understanding the mechanics and grammar. . . Administrators organizing in-service programs for continuing education credits must prioritize course work; proficiency in our mother tongue must be at the top of the list.

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