



Manlius Pebble Hill School
SAT Preparation Course Winter/Spring 2021
Class Introduction

Verbal Instruction – Dr. Twomey-Smith

Each verbal class meeting will include a combination of mini-lessons reviewing question-types and common errors, readings excerpted from the College Board's collection of practice exams for students to work on individually (during which tasks they may disengage from their screens), and question-and-answer sessions to address student questions as they come up in the practice passages. At some meetings, students' individual practice sections may be up to 65 minutes in length (a full reading section); in others they may be quite short as we work with texts one at a time.

Students should be prepared for each meeting with the course text and handout packet. Recommended practice sections/passages will also be "assigned" as "homework" to be completed between verbal meetings, and homework questions will be discussed during the following verbal meeting. Of course, there is no gradebook in this course, so students' completion of outside work should be motivated by their own desire to improve their skills through independent practice.

During our final meeting, we will examine the SAT essay format, practice components of an effective approach and discuss common pitfalls, consider several sample prompts, and write an essay.

Math Instruction – Ms. Metzgar

There are two factors that influence your performance on the math SAT, or two things you can do to rock this test.

1. Know your material. Know it inside out, backwards, and in your sleep.
2. Know the format, question style, and wording of the test.

The SAT preparation course is intended as both a review of math topics and a deep dive into exploring the way the test is written. The time we spend together as a class is specifically designated to address the two factors above and ultimately eliminate common test anxiety as you grow more comfortable with the style of the test.

Every week, plan on spending a portion of class time taking sections of past SATs, ideally in an environment that mimics the actual testing setting. As you take the practice tests, you will notice trends in question types and frequency, favored word choice used by the writers, and common traps they expect you to fall into. Following the practice tests, we will work through a review of problems and topics that posed any difficulty for any students. The math portion is highly student driven, meaning that students are encouraged to ask all questions – even extending beyond the test – where review or guidance is wanted.

The SAT is designed for students who are nearly finished with their high school math requirements. Occasionally math problems will appear that represent material a student has not yet had in class. We are happy to cover all math topics, whether the material is new or review.