

SAT Prep/College Exploration Course

Spring 2020

Ms. Mann and Ms. Quinton

Vista del Lago High School

Course Description: The SAT Prep course is an 11th grade elective designed to help students develop and experience targeted subject content and skills review to prepare them for the SAT exam. In addition to preparing students for the SAT exam, the course will guide students through choices they must make about pursuing higher education, determining what schools are right for them, and deciding on a career. Students will also explore the college application process and ways to pay for college.

General Goals and Purpose: This course is designed for those students who are planning to take the SAT exam and preparing for the college application process, giving students the skills they need to approach the SAT and the college application process with confidence. This one-term elective targets critical reading, English grammar, mathematics, and the fundamentals of writing the essay component of the SAT exam. Students will learn test-taking strategies that they can use on test day. Later in the course, students will begin the process of writing personal essays for college applications, as well as explore post-secondary options for higher education and career. Students will leave this course with skills that will enhance their future.

Suggested Supplies: We recognize that many families wish to provide supplies for their own student or donate materials to the school and are welcome to do so at any time. The supplies listed are suggested materials and are not required of any students or family to fully participate in the school's academic program. All required materials and supplies will be provided by schools to students at no cost. For this course we will use the following supplies. Please let your teacher know during the first week of school if you are unable to provide these items.

- *The Official SAT Study Guide* (2020 Edition published by College Board ISBN-10: 1457312190)
- 3 ring binder (1 – 1½ inch) with at least 5 tabs
- Pencils, erasers, pens, highlighters
- Calculator (the one you plan to use for the SAT – no cell phone calculators)

Expectations:

- **Be respectful!** Show respect to everyone and everything in the classroom. Leave a negative attitude at the door. In particular, please respect others' opinion (which does not mean that you have to agree with them). If you show disrespect in any way when a substitute is in the class you will be suspended from class upon your teacher's return.
- **Be on time!** You are expected to attend every class meeting on time. This means you are in your seat when the bell rings; otherwise you are tardy. Tardies will result in detention/suspension consequences per the school policy. The school tardy policy is as follows: 1st–3rd tardy = teacher discretion, 4th tardy = 15 minute detention, 5th tardy = 30 minute detention, 6th tardy = 50 minute detention, 7th–8th tardy = in-class suspension and administrative referral. Failure to serve an assigned detention may result in class suspension. Five tardies will result in an "N" and eight or more tardies will result in a "U." Please see Vista's grading policy for more details.
- **Be prepared to succeed!** Always give your best effort on all class assignments and activities. They are opportunities to learn, achieve, and grow. Arrive prepared to discuss any assigned readings. Homework, reading, and projects should be done before coming into class. Be sure you bring all of your daily-required materials. Use your break time wisely. Should you need to use the restroom this is the time to do it!
- **Be an example!** All students are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Those who do not can expect fair, consistent, and appropriate disciplinary consequences for their inappropriate actions. Typical consequences include but are not limited to warnings, detentions, referrals to administration, parent phone calls, parent conferences, behavior contracts, and even suspension from the class. No gum, food or drink, except water, may be consumed in the classroom without permission. Electronic devices taken during class will be sent to the office.

- **Be a person of integrity!** Remember that your personal honor is a very important part of who you are as an individual. While students are encouraged to help each other and work together, cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating occurs whenever a student attempts to take credit for someone else's effort. Cheating can take place in or out of the classroom on anything that has a point value attached to it. Any student found cheating will receive consequences as defined in the Academic Dishonesty Policy. Refer to the school website for more details.

Grading System: Grades can be accessed from the Vista website www.fcusd.org/vdlhs. Grades will be weighted based on two categories: formative and summative.

- **Formative (30%):** Formative assessments are *assessments for learning* – they are learning opportunities for students that occur throughout the unit of study to help a student identify strengths and weaknesses. The interactive notebook, homework, and quizzes are examples of formative assessments.
- **Summative (70%):** Summative assessments are the *assessments of learning* – they are the final assessment of learning for a unit of study. Culminating projects, the March/May SAT Exam, and midterms/final exams are examples of summative assessments.

Letter grades will be assigned to your percentage as follows:

A 100% – 90%	B 89% – 80%	C 79% – 70%	D 69% – 60%	F 59% – 0%
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Participation: Students are expected to be actively engaged in what is going on in class by answering questions, participating in classroom discussions, following classroom rules, showing respect to others and their opinions, etc. Participation will be reflected in the citizenship grade.

Late Work and Missing Assignments: Work is considered late if it is not ready at the beginning of your class period -OR- if it is posted past the deadline (for online assignments). Students who are missing assignments and turn in work late will be allowed a limited opportunity to prove mastery and earn up to 50% of the credit.

Absences – Be responsible: In the event of an absence, (1) you are responsible for calling a study partner and/or checking the SAT Prep on the day you are absent; (2) you are responsible for checking-in with the teacher for make-up work before school or by appointment and (3) you are responsible for making appointments to perform or submit any assessments or assignments that you may have missed. Please note: if you are absent the day a long-term summative assignment is due (i.e. portfolio, project, etc.) you will be expected to turn it in the day it is due. You may have the assignment delivered to the school if you cannot turn it in yourself. For formative assignments, the school policy is in effect: 2 days for every day of an excused absence. Absences due to suspension will follow school policy.

PowerSchool and Teacher Websites: For this class you can use PowerSchool and Teacher Websites to view your grades, get class updates, see class calendars, and in some instances get missed work from an absence. We will also be utilizing the free “Remind” app. to inform students about upcoming deadlines and due dates. Instructions for how to join will be covered in class.

Contacting Us: We are available before school, during Flextime, and after school if you need any help. You must arrange an appointment ahead of time for scheduling purposes. Please check our websites for our email addresses and phone numbers.

SAT Prep/College Preparation Course Signature Page & Survey

Carefully read each of the following statements. Initial each item in the space provided. This summary is meant to highlight some of the key points from the syllabus about the course. Please read the entire syllabus for more details about the SAT Prep/College Exploration Course. Return this document to your SAT Prep homeroom teacher by Friday, January 10th, 2020.

- _____ I have read the syllabus and understand that every section pertains to me; I know that I will be held directly and immediately accountable for my actions should I choose to violate any provisions.
- _____ I will complete all reading and homework assignments on time.
- _____ I understand I will be marked tardy if I am not in my seat when the bell rings – Tardiness impacts my citizenship grade.
- _____ I will do all of my own work. I understand that if I am caught being academically dishonest, I will receive consequences as defined in the Academic Honesty Agreement.
- _____ I understand that I may need to complete some projects outside of class in addition to my regular work. I understand that summative projects and assignments must be turned in on time.
- _____ I will make up missed work according to the school make up policy. I will use both PowerSchool, teacher websites, and classmates to help me stay up to speed while I am out.
- _____ I know my teachers will communicate with me and my parents using the free Remind app.
- _____ I will take each practice SAT test seriously. I understand that the more effort I put into practicing for the SAT during this class, the more improvement I will see over the course of time.
- _____ I will register for either the March 14, 2020 or May 2, 2020 SAT on www.collegeboard.org, or I will request an alternate assignment from my teachers.

Student Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____
Home Phone: _____ Parent's Cell/Work Phone: _____
Parent Email: _____ Student Email: _____

Parent Survey and Signature:

Do you have an interest in being a guest speaker to discuss career choices? Or, do you have a professional contact that would be willing to speak about a specific career? If yes, please state the name of the person and the type of career. Please use the back of this sheet if you need additional room.

Please tell us about your student (interests, hobbies, learning style, etc.).

I have read and discussed the parameters of the course expectations with my child. I understand the expectations and will support their implementation.

Print Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Survey and Signature:

Please list all your career interests. _____

Please list any post secondary schools, colleges, or universities that you are interested in finding out more information about.

What are your personal goals for this course? _____

I have read and fully understand the parameters of the course expectations. I will meet the expectations throughout the term.

Print Student Name:_____ Signature:_____ Date:_____