



One-to-One
INSTRUCTION

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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Importance of Family to Reading Achievement of Children



We are often asked by parents how they can get their children to read more. A [recent Canadian study](#) has shown that non-school and family factors are more related to reading skills than school characteristics. Specifically, parents can influence greatly, both directly and indirectly, the reading achievement of their children. The good news is that parents do not have to incur financial burdens in order to achieve this goal; instead, it has been suggested that parents need to spend more time with their children in order to understand, encourage, guide, and support them.

Family characteristics such as parental education expectation, family educational support, and parental academic interest are all important predictors of

Pennsylvania Governor's Schools

In our April 2008 newsletter, we profiled various pre-college summer programs for high school students, but we felt it was worth mentioning again the Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence (PGSE).

PSGE is available exclusively to high school students residing in Pennsylvania. This program is sponsored by the PA Department of Education and is aimed at meeting the needs of artistically and academically talented high school students. It consists of five week-long summer residential programs on various college campuses across the state. The following areas of study are offered at the locations noted:

- * Agricultural Sciences (Penn State)
- * Arts (Mercyhurst College)
- * Global Entrepreneurship (Lehigh University)
- * Health Care (University of

reading achievement. These characteristics affect not only the quality of reading, but also the equity of reading achievement, narrowing both gender and socioeconomic gaps.

Finally, the study also stressed that parents need to model good examples for their children-be avid readers themselves (let your children "catch" you reading) and provide a literacy-rich environment. Whether you purchase reading material for your child, make regular trips with her to the local library, or encourage her to take out books from the school library, commit to becoming more attuned to her reading habits.

To that end, we have included the following links to help interest both younger and older children in reading:

[Powell's Books](#), the largest independent bookstore in the world, has an extensive website. In their "Kid's" section, books are organized by every conceivable topic, including such intriguing categories as Grossonomics (aren't you curious?), Graphic Novels, Banned Books, Forgotten Classics, and Movie Tie-In's.

[Professor Garfield](#) This very "animated" site allows you to be your own cartoonist and create and print your own comic strips.

[Larry Gonick](#), the author of THE CARTOON HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE (among other books), brilliantly and hilariously demystifies dense and difficult subject matter through his illustrated graphic texts.

[ALA](#), the website of the American Library Association, is a wonderful resource for recommended reading for readers and would-be readers of all ages. Some lists for young people are Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Great Graphic Novels for Teens, and Outstanding Books for the College Bound.

Pittsburgh)

* Information, Society and Technology (Drexel University)

* International Studies (University of Pittsburgh)

* Sciences (Carnegie Mellon University)

* Teaching (Millersville University)

The PGSE application process is quite selective and each program has its own application requirements, some of which are quite rigorous. PGSE is a competitive yet affordable summer option. Tuition, room and board, instructional materials, and program activities are free for the 5-week period. Students, however, are responsible for transportation to and from the campus, pocket money, and a refundable residential life deposit (amount varies).

Application deadlines are in either January or February 2009, depending upon the program. For more information, follow this [link](#).

Featured Student



Armand Wilson

Armand Wilson, a high school sophomore from Philadelphia, has been tutored in Algebra and Geometry by A+

tutor Adam Torr for over a year and a half. In 8th grade, when Armand needed help with word problems in Algebra I, his parents turned to A+. Since then, Armand has met with Adam weekly, including during the summer, for math help in specific areas and for general enrichment.

Armand enjoys his relationship with Adam whom he describes as a "good spirit." Adam is positive and constructive in his teaching. Armand credits Adam with helping him to "think outside the box" and discover different ways to approach problems.

Adam reports that Armand has made great strides. He was already a good student when he began their tutoring sessions, so the focus has been on improving his analytical skills and methods of preparation. Armand has improved in both of these areas, and his confidence has continued to grow as well. Armand's commitment to his academic success has paid off greatly. This fall, he achieved his goal of gaining admission to Central High School in Philadelphia. Congratulations to both student and tutor!

A+ Partners with International Student Athlete Academy



Kyle Djavan Johson



Keisha Hampton

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring is proud to provide SAT and ACT test prep instruction for the second consecutive year to a group of students enrolled in the International Student Athlete Academy (ISAA). ISAA is a Philadelphia-based organization dedicated to helping student-athletes achieve their academic and athletic goals. A+ provides instruction in ISAA's after-school program at the Community College of Philadelphia and in its summer program at Neumann College.

ISAA serves junior high, high school, and junior college athletes throughout the Delaware Valley. This organization has grown significantly over the past ten years and now offers a full range of programs and services to benefit student athletes, including academic enrichment, college recruiting, career and life skills, physical fitness, nutrition, and financial management.

Two notable students who completed the A+ test prep program through ISAA are Keisha Hampton and Kyle Djavan Johnson. Keisha graduated in 2008 from Carver High School for Engineering and Science where she excelled in basketball. Among other honors, she led the lady engineers to a championship title as a senior and was named Co-MVP with freshman teammate Brittany Hrynko. Keisha received All-Public honors her sophomore, junior, and senior years. After being named third team All-State as a junior, she was named first team All-State and All-City her senior year. Keisha is a champion in the classroom as well. She was named to Carver's honor roll and received scholarship offers from major programs such as Florida and St. John's. Keisha opted to attend DePaul University in Chicago where she is now a freshman.

Kyle Johnson attended Communications Tech High School where, as a junior, he joined the cross-country and track and field teams and became involved in ISAA. Kyle quickly distinguished himself in the world of competitive running by being named third team All-Public his junior year. He qualified for the PIAA State Cross Country Championship as a senior and was named second team All-Public. During the summer, he was a finalist at the USATF Eastern Regional Championship while running for the Colonial Track Club. Kyle is a star off the track as well--he was the only student from his school to be named to the National Honor Society and was voted the best student and most "sophisticated" male of the senior class. Kyle is now a freshman at Millersville University where he is pursuing his interest in communications and his love of cross-country and track and field.

School and Community Partnerships



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides in-home One-to-One Test Prep and Academic Subject Tutoring throughout the Delaware Valley.

We also partner with schools and social service agencies to provide test preparation, remedial reading and math, and study skills courses to students throughout the region. Courses offered include SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher, M.Ed.
President

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