



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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Featured Student



We are proud to report on a notable accomplishment of one of our students. Max Carchedi, a 7th grader at Wissahickon Middle School, recently completed the Wilson Reading System under the guidance of A+ tutor Sherry Moman.

[The Wilson Reading System](#) is a twelve-step, multisensory interactive curriculum for teaching decoding and encoding of the English language. Unlike other systems that overwhelm the student with rules, the language system of English is presented in a

Will AP Tests Replace the SAT?



Jay Mathews, an education columnist for [The Washington Post](#), recently wrote about an emerging trend: several colleges--Bryn Mawr, Hamilton, Furman, and New York University--now accept the AP as a substitute for the SAT or ACT in their admissions process. Mathews calls this a "felicitous trend" and predicts that "this will put the AP ahead of the SAT as the most important test in the country." Bryn Mawr College, a highly selective all-women's institution, announced in June of this year that it is adopting a new "test flexible" policy. Previously, Bryn Mawr required applicants to take either the SAT plus two SAT Subject Tests or the ACT. Now, it has made

systematic and cumulative manner that is manageable. For both student and teacher, progressing through the Wilson Reading System is a major commitment: Max and Sherry have been working together weekly since April 2007 and completed the program in September 2009.

Dan Ascher, President of A+ Test Prep and Tutoring, recently awarded Max a Certificate of Achievement and a \$25.00 Wawa gift card for having reached this milestone.

Max's mother, Caroline Carchedi, notes what a positive effect mastering the Wilson Reading System has had on Max. In elementary school, he struggled with reading and became easily frustrated with homework. Over the course of the time he worked with Sherry, his reading skills improved tremendously and he has become a more confident student and person. Last year in 6th grade, Max had Distinguished Honors in all subjects on his report card, and so far this year in 7th grade, he is doing equally well. Although Max is still not a voracious reader, he is no longer frustrated by his schoolwork and now knows how to apply himself to the task at hand.

Caroline credits much of the success of the program to the relationship between her son and the tutor. She describes Sherry as "very nurturing"--she took a personal interest in Max and was flexible in scheduling tutoring sessions around his extracurricular activities. Both tutor and student alike showed extreme dedication to the goal of finishing the Wilson Reading System. Again, congratulations to Max on this noteworthy achievement--a job very well done!

If you would like more information about the Wilson Reading System, please contact our office at 215.886.9188.

Featured Tutor

room for a third option that focuses more on subject mastery: submit a combination of three SAT Subject and/or AP Tests in the following areas:

- English, history, or languages
- Math or science
- One subject of the student's choice but in a subject different from the other two (only one non-English language may be submitted)

Advanced Placement (AP) Tests are created and administered by the College Board, the same folks who bring us the SAT. AP courses are considered to be college-level courses and are offered in more than 30 different subjects, ranging from Biology, Chemistry, and Microeconomics, to French, Psychology, and World History. The AP Test is usually taken in May as the culminating event of a high school AP class (although it is possible to study on one's own and still be eligible to take the test), and is scored on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the highest). More than 90% of 4-year colleges in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying scores.

Mathews may be a bit hasty, however, in predicting the demise of the SAT and ACT. By no means do all high schools offer the full range of AP courses, and many in less affluent areas offer none at all, which also raises the issue of elitism about this new policy. The SAT and ACT, although imperfect tests, are widely available and have the added convenience of being offered multiple times (the SAT is administered 7 times, while the ACT is offered 6 times) throughout the year. Overall, the SAT and ACT still offer a broader snapshot of a student's abilities. Another consideration is that many AP courses are designed to be taken in one's senior year when the exams are administered too late to be considered for college admissions (most regular college applications are due by January 1 or so of one's senior year). While it is possible to take some AP courses in one's junior year, the subject areas are more limited.

The positive side of this trend toward AP scores being accepted as a substitute for SAT and ACT scores is that it offers students more choices in the already stressful college application process: a student can opt for the test or tests that best showcase his knowledge. Only time will tell if more colleges will join the ranks of Bryn Mawr, Hamilton, Furman, and New York University in broadening their testing criteria for admission.



Sherry Moman, tutor of this month's featured student, Max Carchedi, has been with A+ Test Prep and Tutoring for 4 years. Sherry specializes in teaching reading skills, the [Wilson Reading System](#), [Study Power](#), and basic math and writing skills. For the past 11 years, she has also been a full-time kindergarten teacher at [The Miquon School](#) in Conshohocken, a progressive, independent elementary school. Prior to her teaching career, Sherry used a very different set of skills as a fashion accessories buyer for Strawbridge and Clothier. She received her undergraduate degree from [Syracuse University](#) and her Master's degree in Elementary Education from [Arcadia University](#).

In her spare time, Sherry enjoys a unique hobby: she raises chickens in suburbia! She belongs to an aptly named group called "COOP," an acronym for "Chicken Owners Outside Philadelphia." Check out their fun [website](#). Her interest in chickens stems from her work as a kindergarten teacher. Every year her class would incubate eggs and care for them until they hatched. The chicks would then sadly be returned to the farmers.

One year Sherry decided to ask if she could keep some of the chicks, and thus began her hobby. Sherry now owns 8 chickens of different varieties, all of which lay eggs almost daily. Her family enjoys the eggs and what they don't use themselves, Sherry shares with friends and co-workers.

Another passion of Sherry's is origami. She has been practicing this ancient art of paper folding for many years, a craft that she finds both relaxing and creative. She teaches origami workshops at the Mt. Airy Learning Tree and also gives private lessons to

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 community groups to provide:

- Free Proctored ACT and SAT Exams at Your School
- SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE Test preparation Courses at Your School
- Remedial Reading and Math Tutoring Programs
- [Study Skills](#) courses

Programs are offered throughout the Delaware Valley. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher, M.Ed.

President

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring

Free Proctored SAT and ACT Practice Exams



Mark your calendars! A+ Test Prep and Tutoring is once again offering free, no-obligation, proctored practice exams to current students and to members of the community.

individuals. Most of all she enjoys folding with her folding friends and her students.

This seasoned teacher enjoys tutoring because of the relationships she is able to create in a one-to-one setting and because of the flexibility she has to create individualized programs that will allow her students to succeed.

Sherry resides in Wyndmoor with her husband, two sons, her dog, a lizard, and, of course, her chickens.

Contest for Young Inventors



Do you have a budding young inventor in your midst? If so, here is a wonderful opportunity for him or her to put those creative ideas to the test. *By Kids for Kids*, in collaboration with sponsors Toys R Us and toymaker JAKKS Pacific, have announced "Invention Dimension," a new competition that honors inventiveness in young people.

Open to all Pennsylvania youth aged 6 through 19, young inventors are invited to submit concepts for future toys, indoor and outdoor games, board games and sporting equipment. One winner from Pennsylvania will receive a JAKKS Pacific Prize Pack valued at \$500 and will also have the opportunity to name a teacher or mentor who inspired or supported their inventing process. That mentor will receive \$200 of JAKKS Pacific classroom supplies. The Pennsylvania winner will then advance to the national level of the contest for the chance to win more prizes (including a \$1,000 gift card for a shopping spree at Toys R Us) and an invitation to travel to Malibu, California, where JAKKS is headquartered, to pitch his or her invention to the company's development team.

For your added convenience, we are offering these practice tests at two locations: Glenside and Wynnewood. See details below.

Penn Wynne Library
130 Overbrook Parkway
Wynnewood, PA 19096

ACT Proctored Practice Exam
Saturday, January 30, 2010, 10:00 AM-2:15 PM

SAT Proctored Practice Exam
Saturday, February 6, 2010, 10:00 AM-2:15 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
120 N. Easton Road
Glenside, PA 19038

ACT Proctored Practice Exam
Saturday, January 30, 2010, 8:45 AM-1:00PM

SAT Proctored Practice Exam
Saturday, February 6, 2010, 8:45 AM-1:00PM

This is a great opportunity for students to take the ACT or SAT under actual test-like conditions prior to sitting for the "real" thing. Students will receive a detailed score report which includes an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses on the exam.

These tests are offered by A+ for free, on a no-obligation basis--no strings attached! Space is limited, though, so call our office today at 610.520.0537 or 215.886.9188 to reserve a spot.

For more information on this contest including the competition rules and descriptions of winning entries from previous years, visit this [website](#), and click on the icon for "PA." Please note that entries must be received online by January 29, 2010.

Thank you for your interest in A+ and our newsletter. Feel free to contact us at 215.886.9188 or on the web at www.aplustutoring.com.

And don't forget to visit the [A+ Blog](#), which is updated weekly with articles relating to a variety of education-related topics including college admissions, test prep, learning disabilities, reading skills, etc.

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If you have suggestions for future articles or other ideas for how to improve this newsletter please [click this link](#).