

# Forging Ahead

## Forgione Tutoring Newsletter – June 2019

GOOD LUCK TO OUR STUDENTS ON YOUR EXAMS! You're almost across the finish line. We are excited to start with our new students. Welcome!

### **New contact number**

Our assistant director Eric Salmon can now be contacted at (919) 916-0459. He can be emailed at Eric@forgionetutoring.com.

### **FAQs**

If you are new to our program, you can find general information and answers to many of the frequently asked questions by clicking on this link:

<http://www.forgionetutoring.com/blog/parent-student-login/>

### **Reminders for existing students/current families:**

- If you'd like to arrange tutoring this summer and have not yet contacted us, please do so now. We *highly* recommend that if you plan to resume this summer, to resume as early in the summer as possible. Slots will continue to be filled as the summer goes on, so there will be less and less open as we reach mid-end July.
- May SAT scores are available. If you have not already, contact us with your child's SAT scores.
- For those students who would like to start/resume in July, we will be contacting you soon. We have just wrapped up June scheduling.
- Students CANNOT resume in August. August is our busiest month, and we are in a state of massive crunch due to the overlap of juniors and seniors, plus college application essay writing. The only students who will be tutoring in August are those who have been tutoring through June and July. If we get a request from a student we've already worked with, we will put the student on the to-schedule list and attempt to schedule you to resume in August, but we cannot guarantee it. We will reach out late July to coordinate.

### **Reminders for all students/families:**

- If your child is scheduled for 1 hr/week or 1.5 hrs/week and would like to add an additional session, please let Heather or Eric know asap.
- See our ACT gains summary later in this newsletter for an explanation of how many hours are typically needed to achieve a certain score gain.

## College Application Essay workshop

The College Application Essay Workshop will be held in our Cary office. It's a 2-day (Tues/Thurs) small group workshop aimed at helping students start one Common Application essay. The class is limited to 5 participants. The class will cover the characteristics of successful application essay writing, do an inventory of the students' experiences to brainstorm ideas, review the different Common App Essay prompts, and select 1-2 prompts to begin exploring and writing for day 2. A rough draft will be produced by the end of the workshop.

**Cost:** \$250

**Instructor:** Marcy Sacarakis was one of our Reading & Writing SAT/ACT specialists in the Cary office until she moved to Chapel Hill. She has returned each summer to head the workshop. She taught high school English for 25 years in PA and also has experience teaching creative writing.

**We are currently filling weeks 1, 3, and 5 first.**

**Time:** 10am-12:30 pm on consecutive Tues/Thurs on the following dates (pick one week):

**Week 1: June 25 and 27**

Week 2: July 9 and 11

**Week 3: July 16 and 18**

Week 4: July 23 and 25

**Week 5: July 30 and Aug 1**

Week 6: Aug 6 and 8

Week 7: Aug 13 and 15

### *1-on-1 College App Essay Assistance*

If the workshop doesn't fit your schedule, consider individualized college application essay help. 1-on-1 sessions can be scheduled a variety of different tutors in different locations. We help you brainstorm ideas, narrow down potential topics, and organize and edit rough drafts. After 3-4 in-person sessions and once rough drafts are produced, we can move to email edits to help tweak drafts into final drafts. These sessions range from \$60-\$70/hr. Contact Heather directly at 919-800-8663 or [heather@forgionetutoring.com](mailto:heather@forgionetutoring.com) to schedule. Openings will be much more plentiful in June and July than August!

For those students NOT in town this summer – we can help you with college essays too! We can conduct phone and Skype / Face Time sessions and do edits via email.

## Mock/Diagnostic Calendar

Students may attend mocks at either location. Contact us if you have not already set up a diagnostic or mock for your child, if one is desired. For incoming rising juniors, we recommend one SAT and one ACT diagnostic if a student is undecided about which prep to pursue.

Below is a list of already-scheduled mocks/diagnostics in May and June.

### Raleigh Office (Sundays)

Sun, June 2: ACT

Mon, June 3: SSAT diagnostic

Wed, June 5: SAT

Sun, June 9: ACT

Sun, June 16: SAT

Sun, June 23: open for either

Sun, June 30: open for either

### Cary Office (Sundays)

Sun, June 2: open for either

Sun, June 9: open for either

Sun, June 16: open for either

Sun, June 23: open for either

Sun, June 30: open for either

\*Extended time mocks by request

## Test Dates, Registration Deadlines, and Score Release Dates

### *SAT Dates*

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Late Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Score Release Date</b>
<i>June 1*</i>	<i>May 3</i>	<i>May 22</i>	<i>July 10</i>
<i>Aug. 24</i>	<i>July 26</i>	<i>Aug. 13</i>	<i>Sept. 6</i>
<i>Oct. 5</i>	<i>Sept. 6</i>	<i>Sept. 24</i>	<i>Oct. 18</i>
<i>Nov. 2</i>	<i>Oct. 3</i>	<i>Oct. 22</i>	<i>Nov. 15</i>
<i>Dec. 7</i>	<i>Nov. 8</i>	<i>Nov. 26</i>	<i>Dec. 20</i>

*\*Time Slot Holds for June SAT*

June SAT scores will not be released until July 10 (aarghh!!!). We will not be able to honor time slot holds for students waiting on June SAT scores. If you feel even 50% certain that your child will take the Aug SAT, we recommend your student continue to prep through the summer and not wait until mid-July to resume tutoring. If this is your preference, contact Heather or Eric to schedule sessions.

### *ACT Dates*

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Late Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Score Release Dates</b>
<i>June 8</i>	<i>May 3</i>	<i>May 20</i>	<i>June 18-Aug. 7</i>
<i>July 13</i>	<i>June 14</i>	<i>June 24</i>	<i>July 23-Aug. 26</i>
<i>Sept. 14</i>	<i>Aug. 16</i>	<i>Sept. 1</i>	<i>Sept. 24-Oct. 10</i>
<i>Oct. 26</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>	<i>Oct. 13</i>	<i>Nov. 12-Nov. 26</i>
<i>Dec. 14</i>	<i>Nov. 8</i>	<i>Nov. 25</i>	<i>Dec. 24-Jan. 7, 2020</i>

## Policy Reminders

### *Discontinuation Policy*

If you intend to discontinue the tutoring for any reason, we require 2-weeks' notice\*. To notify us, send an email to Heather@forgionetutoring.com, and we will confirm receipt. If we do not receive the required 2-weeks' notice, all scheduled sessions in the following 2-week window will be charged to the credit card on file.

### *Hold Policy – Holding a time slot*

Students can hold their time slot for 2 weeks under these conditions:

- Students are waiting on scores from a National Test (administered on a Saturday). We cannot hold spots for students waiting on scores from a State/County (school-day administered) test, as those scores take up to 6 weeks to be released.
- Holds will be approved *if* the student has completed at least 8 hours of tutoring per subject area or if the student has demonstrated reaching goals on a mock test.

## Explanation of Recommended Tutoring Hours for ACT Score Gains

To understand how much gain is needed for composite gains on the ACT, use this formula: 1 composite gain x 4 = 4 subject point gains

Here are a few examples of different levels of tutoring intensity and duration to help clarify expectations.

### *Example #1, Low-intensity:*

Your child prepares for one ACT subject, like Math, and tutors 1 hour per week for 8 weeks. The probable result would be a 4-point gain in the Math score, producing a 1-point gain in the composite. If this student started with a 22 composite, he now has a 23 overall ACT score. As you can see, a single subject area focus can only “move the needle” so much. Is it possible that an 8-week subject area focus could produce more gains? Yes, but if more gains are desired, it's best to amp up the intensity.

- If a student would like to raise the composite by 3-4 points, such as from a 22 to 25 or 26, with low intensity prep he could need up to 4 rounds of a subject area focus. This lengthens the process to *up to* 8 months of duration.

### *Example #2, Medium-High Intensity:*

Your child would like to raise his composite score 3 points from a 22 to a 25. This requires a 12-point subject gain spread out among the subject scores. To achieve this, he'd need to raise the

math score by 3, Reading by 3, and English by 3 points, for example. Or, he could raise Math by 7 points and English by 5. There are many different combinations for how a 12-point subject score gain can be achieved. See the table below for recommendations for this scenario. A common prep schedule would be 1.5-2 hours a week for 4 months.

*Example #3, Highest Intensity:*

Your child would like to raise his composite score by 7 points from a 22 to a 29. This requires a 28-point subject score gain, most likely evenly distributed between the 4 different subjects; each subject (English, Reading, Math, and Science) would need to improve by 7 points. This level of gain usually requires two 4-month prep periods, a total of 8 months of consistent tutoring, and possibly 40-60 hours of tutoring.

Whether the preparation takes less or more time than these estimates depends on multiple factors, such as:

- how much review and remediation are necessary
- how much material the student has retained and how well the material was learned the first time it was taught
- how quickly the student’s performance improves through HW and mock testing
- the student’s reading speed and fluency
- the student’s level of reading comprehension
- test anxiety, effects of learning disabilities, and other issues that might impact performance

The handy table below summarizes these estimates:

<b>Intensity</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Composite Gain</b>	<b>Total Subject Point Gains</b>	<b>Hours/week</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b># of Weeks or Months</b>
Low (Ex #1)	1 Subject	1 point	4 points	1 hr/week	8 hours	8 weeks
Medium	2 Subjects	2 point	8 points	1.5-2 hrs/week	16 hours	8-10 weeks
Medium-High (Ex #2)	2-3 Subjects	3 point	12 points	2 hrs/week	24 hours	12 weeks
High/ Comprehensive	4 Subjects	4 or more points	16 or more points	2-2.5 hrs/week	32 hours	12-16 weeks

Highest (Ex #3)	4 Subjects	7 or more points	28 or more points	2-2.5 hrs/week	60 hours	6-12 months
--------------------	------------	---------------------	----------------------	-------------------	----------	----------------

## Other News

### *A Fifth Section on the SAT?*

Some SAT testing centers may require students to take an additional 20 minute section, even if the student is taking the essay portion. It's possible that some questions in this section WILL count towards the overall score and some experimental questions may be embedded throughout the previous 4 sections of the test. **Students must give their best effort on ALL sections, including the 5th section.**

## Like Us on Facebook!

Like our FB page! I post fun and informative articles related to testing, the college application process, and learning. How you can find us: <https://www.facebook.com/Forgione-Tutoring-123792120991396/>

Thank you for your business this year! We look forward to a fun summer.

Our sincerest thanks for a wonderful year spent with your child,

~The team at Forgione Tutoring

[Heather@forgionetutoring.com](mailto:Heather@forgionetutoring.com) / 919-800-8663

[Eric@forgionetutoring.com](mailto:Eric@forgionetutoring.com) / 615-430-9694