



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

February, 2009

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Link Between Music and Academic Success



Many environmental factors influence the development of a child's intelligence, but the field of music science points to new data about the relationship between music making and brainpower, academic success, wellness, and self-esteem. The effects are far-reaching and span a person's life from an early age through college and beyond.

Young children with developed rhythm skills perform better academically in early school years. Findings of a recent study showed that there was a significant difference in the academic achievement levels of students classified according to rhythmic competency. Students who were achieving at academic expectation scored high on all rhythmic tasks, while many of those who scored lower on the rhythmic test achieved below academic expectation.

Research shows that piano students are better equipped to comprehend mathematical and scientific concepts. A group of preschoolers received private piano keyboard lessons and singing lessons. A second group received private computer lessons.

Featured Tutor



Peter Bodri

We are pleased to welcome Peter Bodri to the A+ tutoring team. Peter graduated last year cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh with a double major in Mathematics and Philosophy. He tutors a wide range of math and science topics including SAT Math prep, ACT math/science prep, Algebra I, Algebra II, Trigonometry, AP Calculus, and Physics.

As an undergraduate, Peter volunteered at the Urban

Those children who received piano/keyboard training performed 34 percent higher on tests measuring spatial-temporal ability than those who received computer training. A different study showed that after a 3-year period of piano instruction, children had higher self-esteem and their pattern recognition had improved.

High school music students score higher on SATs in both verbal and math than their peers. In 2001, SAT takers with coursework/experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 41 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework/experience in the arts. The study of music by children has also been linked to higher scores on other aptitude tests.

Once in college, music continues to have beneficial effects. College-age musicians are emotionally healthier than their non-musician counterparts. A study conducted at the University of Texas looked at 362 students who were in their first semester of college. They were given three tests measuring performance anxiety, emotional concerns, and alcohol-related problems. In addition to having fewer battles with the bottle, researchers noted that the college-aged music students seemed to have surer footing when facing tests.

In addition, data from the National Educational Longitudinal Study of 1988 showed that music participants received more academic honors and awards than non-music students, and that the percentage of music participants receiving A's, A's and B's, and B's was higher than the percentage of non-participants receiving those grades.

Interestingly, music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school. Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants and found that 66 percent of music majors who applied to med school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. By comparison, 44 percent of biochemistry majors were admitted. A study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, biology, chemistry, and math.

Music benefits us academically and emotionally, so encourage your child or teen to participate in music at any level--he or she does not have to be a musical prodigy. For more information about music science and musical programs in schools, follow the links below.

<http://www.amc-music.com/musicmaking/brain/rauscher.htm>

League of Pittsburgh Charter School and worked as a teaching assistant in the Mathematics Department at Pitt. This newcomer enjoys teaching in general and seeing a student's self-confidence grow over time. He likes to share his passion for math and encourages students to view math problems as puzzles to be solved. In addition to tutoring for A+, Peter is also working temporarily for Chrysler Financial. Peter will be attending law school in the fall, but he is unsure where as he is still awaiting decisions from several schools. He has been accepted to the University of Pittsburgh, Villanova University, and Temple University law schools thus far.

In his spare time, Peter enjoys video games, follows trends in technology and popular culture, and loves cars (he has a Mustang from the early 90's that he has done a lot of work on). During summers in college, he worked as a lifeguard and is still certified in first aid and CPR. He is a 2004 graduate of Hatboro-Horsham High School and resides in Horsham.

Free Proctored ACT and SAT Practice Exams



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

Two proctored practice exams are scheduled for the month of March:

The ACT is an increasingly popular alternative to the SAT that is widely accepted by most colleges. A practice ACT is scheduled for 8:45 AM-1:00 PM on Saturday, March 7 in Glenside, PA.

The practice SAT will be administered on Saturday, March 21 from 8:45-1:00 PM, also in Glenside, PA.

http://ncmcmusic.com/intellectl_link.htm

<http://www.supportmusic.com>

<http://school.familyeducation.com/page/57479.html>

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.

For a comparison of the SAT and ACT exams, [click here](#).

Space is limited, so call our office today at 215.886.9188 to register and reserve your spot!

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

2009 A+ Pro Bono Program



We at A+ are committed to serving our community by providing help for students who may not be able to afford private SAT or ACT tutoring.

For the fourth consecutive year, we are offering a one-to-one SAT or ACT Prep program (student's choice) free of charge to a select group of high school students who have demonstrated both financial need and academic promise. These students will be taking the SAT or ACT this spring. Thirteen juniors were selected with the help of their guidance departments from the following Delaware Valley schools:

Radnor High School
Springfield High School
Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School
Upper Dublin High School
Wissahickon High School
Council Rock High School
William Penn Charter School
Mount St. Joseph's Academy
Merion Mercy Academy
Cheltenham High School
The Springside School
Episcopal Academy
St. Joseph's Preparatory School

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.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please use the link at the bottom of this email message.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Ascher, M. Ed.
President
A+ Test Prep and Tutoring

Save \$100

Save \$100 off a complete One-to-One Test Preparation tutoring program for the June 2009 ACT or SAT exam. This is a limited-time offer and only applies to the above test date. Must sign up for a minimum of 19.5 hours of tutoring. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Savings are in addition to any applicable prepayment discount.

Call 215.886.9188 today to reserve your personal tutor.

Offer Expires: March 9, 2009.

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