

Dear Parents:

The Reading Tree is an educational agency founded in 1976 and presently owned and managed by Kurt Hodak. We provide after-school tutoring for students who want extra help and small classes for those preparing to take high school and college exams. Presently, we are working with St. Joan of Arc's eighth graders, helping them prepare for the high school preparation exam offered on January 12, 2008.

Students who take this exam must complete six subtests: Verbal, Quantitative, Reading, and Vocabulary, Math Concepts, Math Problem Solving and English.

To do well, students must gain familiarity with the test's instructions and layout, review, critical content--formulas, theorems and grammar--and refine their reasoning abilities.

Paul is taller than Peter. Peter is shorter than John. Paul is taller than John. If the first two statements are true, the third is

- a) true b) false c) uncertain

Precise reasoning skills also help students address verbal analogies, and work through tasks involving multiple processes, such as in the following:

What comes next in this series: 4, 16, 5, 25, 6 _____?

1.3 of what number added to 6 is 2 times 9?

Finally, to do well on the test, students must address quantitative and verbal questions without referring to a model. Therefore students must:

- ▶ master the content - formulas, theorems, and grammar needed to answer the questions, and
- ▶ recognize when to apply a given formula or process.

For example, students must know that the perimeter of a rectangle is $2W + 2L$, but they must also know that if they are given the perimeter and length (e.g., $P = 24$, $L = 8$) and asked to find the width, they should substitute these values into the formula, and solve the problem algebraically.

Our course consists of fifteen, 40-minute sessions. This gives us time to **familiarize students with test instructions and lay out**, and work on **test-taking strategies, content, and reasoning**. The course is part of St. Joan's Focus Classes and is provided at no charge to parents.

In addition to this course, The Reading Tree staff has agreed to hold an optional review session, consisting of three, one and a half hour classes on January 8th, 10th, and 11th, (Tues., Thurs., and Fri.), from 2:20--3:50 P.M. The test is on January 12h, so this review session should help students recall what they have assimilated during the fall course. The fee is \$55, and should be made out to The Reading Tree, enclosed with the following registration form and sent to St. Joan of Arc School.

Sincerely,

Kurt Hodak
Manager

Review sessions will be held at St. Joan of Arc, rooms to be announced.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____(H) _____(W)

- Please enroll my student in the 3-class review session to be held on January 8 10 and 11. I understand that if my student cannot make one or more of the classes, special review materials will be available for pick up at St. Joan of Arc's School Office.
- Enclosed is a check for \$55, made out to The Reading Tree.