

# Reach High Scholars Program

P.O. Box 982  
Raymond, N.H. 03077

September 8, 2016

Dear Families of RHS Seniors:

Again this year, the Reach High Scholars Program and Academic Approach will be conducting **SAT Prep Classes at RHS for seniors on five Saturdays, leading up to the SAT I Test on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, which this year will be offered at RHS.** On Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a full SAT practice test from 8:30 AM until noon, with the results available to students by October 7<sup>th</sup>. On Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, the classes will start at 8:00 and end by 10:00. Each session will have two 50-minute classes.

## The New PSAT and SAT Tests

The PSAT and SAT Tests were revised last year to correspond with high school curriculums and better reflect what students have learned. The PSAT and SAT tests use similar types of questions and each of the two sections, Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, are scored on the same 200-to-800 scale, thus enabling students and educators to track progress. The essay required in the past is now optional and scored separately.

The revised tests draw heavily from the Common Core math and reading benchmarks adopted by most states, including NH. The tests emphasize evidence-based interpretation of texts, vocabulary used in colleges and careers and depth-over-breadth math skills. By focusing on higher-level logic and reasoning, they are more relevant to college success and everyday life.

The NH Department of Education now uses the new SAT as the statewide assessment to meet federal requirements and to compare NH high schools. Good test results by RHS students will move the school up in the rankings, which can have positive impacts on the attitude of college admissions offices toward RHS applicants, the ability to hire and retain good teachers, local real estate values and the general morale in the school and community. **To help RHS's cause, RHSP provides the most extensive on-site PSAT and SAT Prep of any high school in New Hampshire.**

## Importance of Preparation

The SAT tests are common-denominator measurements of all applicants to U.S. colleges. For RHS students, they are a way to show that you are "as good as the next guy," who often has prepared with classroom courses or private tutoring of 20 weeks or more, at a cost of \$1,200 to well over \$5,000.

Colleges use SAT scores to interpret the academic challenge of a student's high school courses and to assess the potential for success in college. Good scores can help students to gain access to top colleges with significant need-based financial aid and to qualify for merit scholarships.

It is recommended that students take the SAT at least twice, with continual preparation throughout the process. Most colleges "Super Score" students' SAT results by accepting the best score on each section of the test, regardless of the date on which it was achieved.

You will find at: [http://www.reachhighscholars.org/scores\\_and\\_acceptance.html](http://www.reachhighscholars.org/scores_and_acceptance.html) an indication of the SAT scores needed for admission and the acceptance rates at about 100 top colleges. That should offer inspiration to do well on the SAT tests.

**Control Your Destiny**  
[www.reachhighscholars.org](http://www.reachhighscholars.org)

SAT I tests will be given this fall on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Because of the Labor Day and RHS Homecoming Weekends, it is not possible to do an adequate prep course before October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Hence, seniors are recommended to take SAT II Subject Tests that day and do the SAT I Test on one or both of the later dates, after they have had adequate preparation.**

### **Academic Approach**

Academic Approach (<http://www.academicapproach.com/>) is a national company that provides test preparation in classrooms, on-line and through individual tutoring sessions. Their clients include public schools, charter schools and private day and boarding schools and they work with students from a wide range of economic backgrounds.

AA became interested in working with RHS through the Reach High Scholars Program and its various initiatives and resulting college admission successes, which are unique for a small high school and compatible with their approach to test preparation. They have just two clients in NH: RHS and Phillips Exeter Academy. This is the fourth year in which they will be conducting our Boot Camps.

### **Awards**

RHSP grants \$100 awards to RHS students for good SAT scores. Details of the awards are described at: [www.reachhighscholars.org/test\\_prep.html](http://www.reachhighscholars.org/test_prep.html).

### **Permission to Receive Scores**

As part of the college preparation process, Academic Approach continually monitors the progress of students and the construct of its lessons by reviewing the trend of scores on the Diagnostic Tests and students' scores on Official SAT Tests.

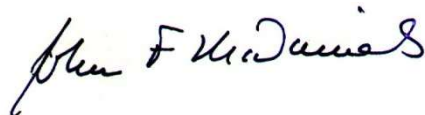
RHS receives the official scores from College Board for each student and can provide them to RHSP and Academic Approach with your permission. Authorization for this is provided on the Application Form.

### **Fees and Application Form**

**The fee for the SAT Prep Course is \$130, with possible reductions based on household income. Please complete the Application Form attached to this letter and return it by September 19<sup>th</sup> to Reach High Scholars Program, P.O. Box 982, Raymond 03077 or to Shawna Stilian, College & Career Counselor at RHS, with a check in the appropriate amount.**

Please contact Elizabeth Holcomb, Program Director of Reach High Scholars Program (eholcomb810@gmail.com; 603 285 5173) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. McDaniels".

John McDaniels  
Chairman, Reach High Scholars Program

# Reach High Scholars Program

## SAT Fall Boot Camp for Seniors Application Form

The fee for the course is \$130, with possible reductions based on household income.

Please complete this application and return it, with a check in the appropriate amount, **by September 19th**, to **Reach High Scholars Program, P.O. Box 982, Raymond, NH 03077** or to **Shawna Stilian, College & Career Counselor at RHS**.

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(street)

(town)

(zip code)

Telephone Numbers:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Aid:** For applicants desiring financial aid, please indicate:

- (i) your total annual household income for 2015 (before deduction for taxes, Social Security, insurance or other items): \$ \_\_\_\_\_;
- (ii) the number of persons currently in your household: \_\_\_\_\_.

### SAT Prep Reduced Fee Guidelines

	<u>Fee:</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
<u>Household Size</u>			
1		21,978	15,444
2		29,637	20,826
3		37,296	26,206
4		44,955	31,590
5		52,614	36,972
6		60,273	42,364
7		67,951	47,749
8		75,647	53,157
Each additional		7,606	5,406

**Permission to Receive Scores:** Academic Approach and Reach High Scholars Program are authorized to receive the Student's scores on official SAT tests from Raymond High School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)