

Greetings Parents and Students:

When it comes to standardized tests such as the SAT and the ACT, it is important to understand the benefit of acquiring test-taking skills and taking practice tests. Being familiar with the nuances of standardized test questions, formats, answer keys, and time constraints is almost as important as possessing content knowledge and critical thinking skills. Evaluating closely, one's most recent test results to focus on skills in areas that need strengthening is a valuable tool in enhancing one's performance on subsequent tests.

Self-help is free and should be a regular part of every student's repertoire. College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to offer free tests prep that can be found here: [College Board/Khan Academy](#). The ACT also offers test prep, including free practice tests which can be found here: [ACT Resources](#). Both programs are very successful and they allow students the flexibility to work around their unique schedules.

Additionally, working with an expert in the field can pay big dividends. To that end, for those interested in working one-on-one with a tutor, we want to make you aware of the two people the College Counseling Office recommends: Andy Hilnbrand and Brian Leaf.

Andy Hilnbrand is the founder of Quotient Education ([quotiented.com](#)). He is a professional tutor specializing in standardized testing preparation and math and science course support (including AP Calc, Stats, Physics, and Chem). A former Director of Mathematics and Sciences and Princeton Review Instructor, Andy also served as a math and science department chair for 13 years and has had his own independent tutoring business for 20 years. In addition to tutoring, Andy is a professor for the University of Massachusetts School of Education. He can be contacted at: andy@quotiented.com or **(413) 320-2645**

Brian Leaf ([brianleaf.com](#)) is the author of six books, including *Defining Twilight* and the four-book SAT and ACT test-prep series McGraw-Hill's Top 50 Skills. He is Director of the New Leaf Learning Center in Massachusetts, and has provided SAT, ACT, GED, SSAT, and GRE preparation to thousands of students from across the country. He can be contacted at: **(877) 584-0075**.