



# HSPT TUTORING GUIDE

Unlocking Potential, One Child at a Time

# HSPT

Unlike public high schools that accept every student within their boundaries, Catholic high schools can choose who they accept. This process can feel more like a college admission. High schools look at your child's grades, teacher referrals and test scores, most notably the HSPT (High School Placement Test). This test is usually given the first Saturday in December with results usually out by mid-January. This test is completely multiple choice and includes 5 sections:



- verbal (vocabulary, classifications and analogy/logic questions)
- quantitative (series/patterns, comparisons, and number manipulations, including fractions, decimals and percentages)
- reading (comprehension and vocabulary)
- math (traditional math problems that test prime numbers, fractions, geometry, word problems and integers)
- language (adverb usage, verb agreement, punctuation, spelling and ordering sentences)

# HSPT Continued...

Our program includes four areas:

- We start by familiarizing students with the structure of the test. Knowing what to expect will help reduce any anxiety they are feeling. On test day, they should know what to expect; there should be no surprises.
- We reinforce content. We look for holes in their foundational skills and fill them. This includes punctuation rules, basic math facts, and how to find a main idea.
- We teach test-taking strategies. Students will know how to attack each type of question on this test.



**Finally**, we will work on timing, so students know how quickly they need to work through each section. We also look at where they will gain the most points, and what we can sacrifice if need be.

What can you do to help?

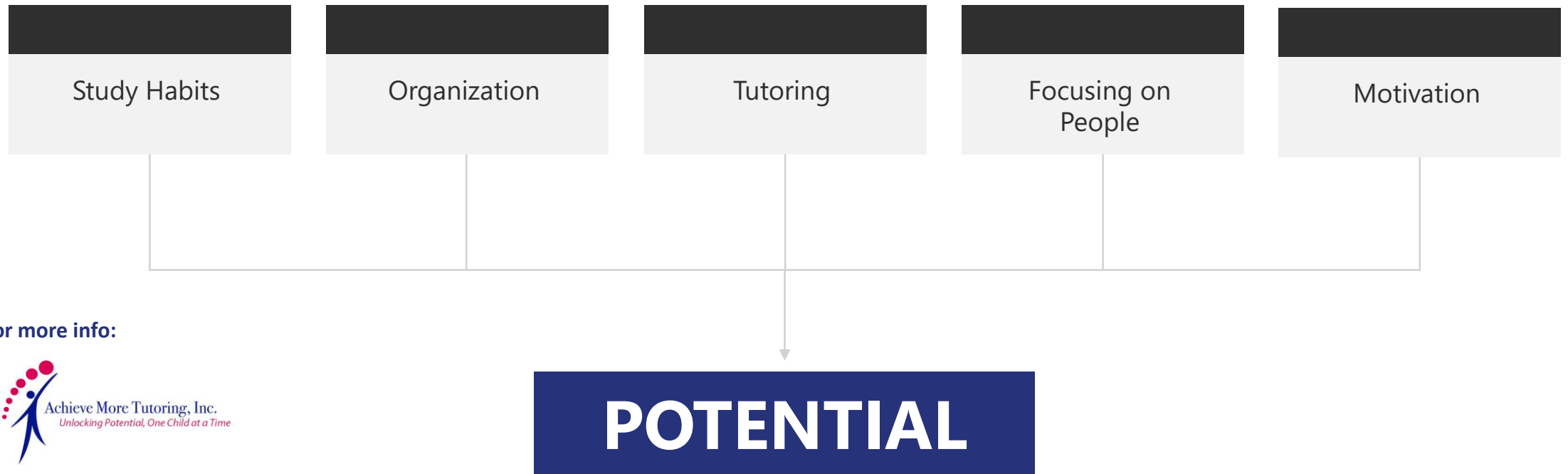
- Encourage your child to read for pleasure. The best way to improve reading skills is to read. Reading is a foundational skill on this test and crosses into every section (including math!). It's also an important skill for high school and college. Many of our former students come back and tell us that 90-95% of their college homework is reading. If we can make them faster and stronger readers for this test and also help them in high school and college, then it's a win-win. Help them find a book that they enjoy and encourage them to read every night for 20-30 minutes.
- Review basic math facts. Students are not allowed to use a calculator on this test. In order to manipulate percentages and fractions, they must know their math facts. Use flash cards to find which ones they don't know and review them. I write the facts on 4 or 5 sticky notes that I place around our house. Randomly, I yell to my son, "What's  $4 \times 6$ ?" He will run to the light switch or bathroom mirror to look at the sticky note. When he stops running to the sticky note, I know he knows the fact, and I replace it with a new one.

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# Let's get started...

## Call Carol today @ 630-276-8163.



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