

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 2ND DECEMBER 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Achieve Academic Excellence at MERCUTM Learning Point

1,300 students have enrolled in MERCUTM Primary 6 Guaranteed Results[©] Programme since it was introduced in December 2003. This programme assures parents that their children will pass the PSLE and move on to at least, the Normal Academic stream. Failing which, parents will be refunded of up to 50% of their total tuition fees[#]. The curriculum has been designed to ensure a comprehensive coverage of the MOE school syllabus.

350 students joined the programme for 2008 intake. Out of which, 30% who are generally weak students, passed the PSLE and progressed to Normal Academic. 65% advanced to Express Stream and this is an improvement from 60% for last year's cohort.

Parents were initially apprehensive about group tuition. However, the small class size of 8 students in this programme proved to be effective as it allows tutors to identify individual student's needs. Mdm Rosiah, shared on how her perception on group tuition changed.

"I was contemplating whether a group tuition will be beneficial for my daughter due to disappointing experiences I had at other tuition centres. It was only meant to be a month's trial in MERCUTM. Yet despite only a period of 3 to 4 months in MERCUTM's P6 Guaranteed Results Programme, I can see the significant change in Iffah's studying approach. It is visible to me...the efforts put in by the teacher, who had highly encouraged and motivated her. The tutor was able to see individual student's needs in teaching a group of 8 students. This strongly increases Iffah's interest in her studies and thus, producing better results." Her daughter, Iffah Hazirah, successfully attained an aggregate of 240 in the PSLE.

Tan Ren Tak, who displayed an improvement in his studies and attained an aggregate of 242, feels that *"...The tutors are dedicated and always encouraged me not to give up. Lessons in MERCUTM are taught in a fun and stimulating manner. The mock examinations are useful to test our understanding of the subjects taught. I find the workshops conducted, very useful, especially on tips on solving exam questions."*

Features of the Guaranteed Results© Programme:

- Advisory Board: consisting of teachers and Head of Departments (HODs) with more than 5 years' experience. They ensure that the programmes by MERCUTM are in line with the current MOE curriculum. They are also responsible in providing training for MERCUTM's pool of tutors.
- Bursary Scheme Award: which rewards the top five PSLE students in MERCUTM based on their aggregates. Recipients can expect to be presented with up to \$1,500.
- Intensive Revision Workshop and Exam Preparatory Workshop
- Continual Assessments and Mock Examinations: preparation for upcoming school examinations
- Semestral Progress Report: updates parents on child's academic performance
- Parent-Tutor Meeting: an avenue to obtain feedback from tutors on child's academic performance
- Scheme of Work: a weekly topical guide for tutors in conducting their lessons.
- Small tutor-student ratio of 1:8: to better identify student's academic needs

MERCUTM also offers tuition for Primary 1 to 5, and Secondary 1 to 5 at its centres. Each student's academic performance is evaluated through the **mock examinations** and **continual assessments**. Parents will be able to see the overall performance in the **progress report**. During the June holidays, an **outdoor and indoor programme** will be organised. It encourages experiential learning through enjoyable activities.

About MERCUTM Learning Point

MERCUTM Learning Point is an education and training provider that offers a comprehensive range of programmes and services to the general public, corporate, grassroots organisations and other Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs). Set up in 1999, MERCUTM has an extensive network of early childhood centres, student care centres, learning centres and a private school.

MERCUTM comprises of Kidz Meadow - a kindergarten and three childcare centres, two student care centres, three learning centres that offer academic and enrichment for students and a Private School offering private GCE 'O' and 'N' Level programmes.

We kindly request the media's support and assistance to inform members of the public of these programmes so that they may take advantage of its benefits. Should you require more information, please contact Ms Sumarni at 6346 8301 or e-mail: sumarni@merculearning.com

Subject to terms and conditions

END

Issued by: Sumarni Suaidi (Senior Executive, Marketing Communications)
Contact No.: 6346 8301
E-mail: sumarni@merculearning.com
Date: 2 December 2008