

August 1, 2021

Volume 10, Number 8

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**\*\*Common App Update:** The new essay prompts have been sent to college admissions consultants like us. We are now working with rising seniors on these essays so that they are completed before summer break. Take advantage of this free time and sign up for essay services!

## TEST UPDATES

ACT: Here is the link for the latest ACT information:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html>

SAT: Here is the link for the latest SAT information:

<https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

## Helpful Links

For info about SAT I, II, and AP Tests go to:

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

For info about ACT test go to:

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

For info about test optional schools go to:

[www.fairtest.org/university/optional](http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional)

For info about financial aid go to:

[www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

For college search info go to:

## The 8 Characteristics of Motivated Kids

By Rick Lavoie

Fostering motivation—a child's desire and drive to succeed—is a universal challenge for teachers and parents. A "well-motivated child" is a pleasure to teach. His hand shoots into the air during class discussions. He can't wait for that science lab, writing workshop, or even formal test. In fact, he'll cheerfully take on one challenge after another, handle setbacks, and keep moving forward, even if results aren't perfect.

Unfortunately, research indicates that he can also be pretty rare. In a recent survey by the National Education Association, for example, teachers said that in general, approximately 60% of their students were "disengaged" or "unmotivated." In practical terms, that's a lot of demoralized kids, with plenty of frustrated teachers and parents looking on. So, is there any way out of the impasse? Absolutely, says renowned author and lecturer, Richard Lavoie, Ed.D. In over 30 years as a teacher and headmaster of residential schools for children with learning disabilities, Lavoie watched thousands of students struggle to stay engaged. His latest book, *The Motivation Breakthrough*, builds on those experiences to offer practical, research-based tools. He says that all children are motivated in some way, but adults need to help motivate them. "Kids just don't come loaded with [motivation] batteries. You've got to be ready to put them in."

[www.collegenavigator.gov](http://www.collegenavigator.gov)

[www.collegeprowler.com](http://www.collegeprowler.com)

To take a virtual tour of college campuses go to:

[www.youniversitytv.com](http://www.youniversitytv.com)

To learn about Colleges That Change Lives go to:

[www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org)



**AcademicAlly, LLC** has launched the Summer of Enrichment 2021. We know academic gaps have widened or developed for many students as a result of C19. We also know there is a strong likelihood that schools will return to a virtual model of learning next year. We want to help students and their families by offering them customized programs to bridge gaps and prepare them for the fall. We are focused on the areas listed below. Take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

## Summer of Enrichment 2021

With our **individualized** programs, your student can still have a great summer AND keep those academic skills fresh.

Summer is the perfect time to **strengthen** academic skills, **get ahead** of the college admissions process, or **prepare** for classes this fall. (And we promise to make it fun!)

### Organizational Skills:

- Establish time management strategies to better organize academic and personal responsibilities
- Create personalized set of tools to better manage time
- Implement a system to affectively access, submit, and store assignments in a digital format
- Learn techniques and tools to organize personal space and belongings
- Establishment and maintenance of a homework protocol
- Effective self-advocacy and communication skills
- Self-accountability strategies

So, let's say you want to help your child join the ranks of those eager beavers who just can't get enough time in class. Lavoie started his research where most of us would: by reviewing professional scholarship. He found, however, that he came out largely empty handed. "Our schools have come to the point," he says, "where we understand and embrace many learning styles. A teacher may use nine different math strategies, ten different reading strategies...but we typically rely on just one strategy of motivation: reward and punishment. They just don't do the job."

Just what *is* the answer? To his amazement, Lavoie stumbled across an unlikely source of "practical, pragmatic, and detailed" research: from Madison Avenue advertising! "If anybody knows how to motivate kids," says Lavoie, "it's the people selling toys and music." They understand, explains Lavoie, that "one size does not fit all." Kids—and we adults—respond to different kinds of motivating drives.

To help load kids' "batteries," then, Lavoie argues that we must be willing to understand what drives them—as well as what drives us. If we're different, we must be ready to bridge those gaps.

So, parents, do you know what motivates you and your child the most? Check out Lavoie's list and see what matches (note: more than one may apply!):

## Gregariousness

These folks adore social interaction and love to be in a lively crowd. Gregarious folks love to be connected to others, and hate to feel cast out in any way. When they're comfortable, they're friendly and may be great at both joining and leading.

## Autonomy

In this case, the chance to work independently is a dream come true. A trip to a library study carrel is a treat, as is the chance to solve a problem alone in an office.

## Status

It's important to know where you stand, and to feel that you have maintained a strong, positive reputation. Criticism can feel crushin

### Writing Skills:

- Learn the value of pre-writing in order to organize thoughts and flow of a written piece
- Fine-tune editing skills, being mindful of proper punctuation and grammar
- Understanding how to effectively conduct research
  - using key search words and appropriate resources,
  - guided by strong essential questions
- Develop writing skills needed for creating a comprehensive paper

### Reading Comprehension:

- Learn how to identify and record important information
- Create a personalized system for organizing facts from the reading.
- Learn how to effectively research sources for research-based assignments
- Utilize strategies to break down readings into smaller more manageable chunks

### Math Skills: up to Calculus

#### Science Skills:

Whether you are taking biology, chemistry or physics, we can help you master this material!

### College Admissions Consulting:

- Assistance with creating appropriate list of colleges to which to apply
- Brainstorming and editing college essays
- Admissions interview preparation
- Strategies to maximize college visits
- Knowledge about the changing landscape of College admissions in the face of COVID 19

### SAT/ACT Test Prep:

- Learn helpful test taking strategies
- Determine which test is right for you

We work with you to **customize** a plan to ensure your student's success. Spaces are filled on a first-come first-served basis. Act now while space is available.

## Inquisitiveness

The need to know is a deep and powerful drive. When you're curious about something, it's a gift to be allowed to explore it without being restrained.

## Aggression

This sounds negative, but don't be fooled. People with strong positive aggression are good competitors, as well as passionate fighters for justice. They want their views to be heard and respected.

## Power

Again, beware bad connotations. As a motivating force, "power" is a drive for influence, responsibility, and authority. It's an especially natural and important part of adolescence...when it's managed right.

## Recognition

Many people adore being seen and appreciated for their gifts and accomplishments, and will respond to public encouragement.

## Affiliation

These folks adore feeling connected to institutions and groups bigger than themselves. Lavoie himself, for example, owns a world-class collection of sport team tees and hats, and loves wearing them at any opportunity. He is deeply motivated by affiliation.

If you're like most people, you'll notice that while most drives apply in some way, one or two will really stand out. Kids, says, Lavoie, are just the same. So, when you're figuring out how to help a child feel motivated, try working with these drives. Lavoie, the affiliation-lover, offers the example of a year when he made class logo tee shirts for each of his students. "Some students," he remembers, "wore the shirts until the garment nearly dissolved off their bodies"—fellow

**Keeping on Track: Rising Seniors:** Finish up your college admissions essays. The Common App is launching on August 1st. Feeling overwhelmed about the essay or the Common App? We can help you to choose the appropriate prompt, formulate some ideas, and finish with a final draft that captures the essence of who you are! We can also help you to present your best self on your application. Call today to schedule an appointment. Pay attention to the ever-evolving standardized test requirements for the schools to which you wish to apply. Make sure you have reached out to your teachers about letters of recommendation. Complete your summer work to the best of your ability. It's not too late to do something meaningful with your summer this year. What are your passions? What have you always been curious about but did not have the time to pursue?

**\*\*We are helping students with their college admissions essays now! Schedule your appointment today.**

**Rising Juniors:** Give some thought about when you want to take the ACT or the SAT and schedule your exam soon. If you have not already started to engage in school activities or off-campus extra-curricular opportunities, find something to get involved with. What do you love? What causes are you passionate about? Find a political campaign to get behind. Discover a new hobby or talent you never knew you had. Complete your summer assignments to the best of your ability. Use this time to rest and recover from an intensely crazy second semester.

affiliation-lovers. "Others never wore them again"—lovers of power, inquisitiveness, or other drives, perhaps. Rather than give up the tees entirely, Lavoie says he could have just handled them differently: he could have allowed the students themselves, for example, to select colors and logo (power, status); given extra shirts as rewards for progress (recognition); or set aside one day a week for wearing them together (gregariousness).

What's most important, he explains, is to remember that we adults *can* make all the difference in motivating kids. Special needs students need extra sensitivity, but the strategies that work for them, says Lavoie, "work for everybody." To his surprise, workshop participants around the country have told Lavoie that his work has had dramatic effects on their teaching and parenting. "Somebody actually described it as 'Radical.'" Well, I think it does work, and it really is a departure from the same old-same old. And in the end, I think it's about really good human relations. That's always a good thing."

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***Pay it Forward: Do you know someone who is struggling with the shift to virtual classroom learning?? Send them this newsletter or forward us their contact information. We want to help!***

**Contact Us**

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