

# KUMON FEATURED IN THE PERFECT SCORE PROJECT

*Before you spend a single penny on SAT prep, you need to read this book...*

*The Perfect Score Project* has inspired thousands of parents, students, and teachers to connect and transform the most reviled rite of passage in a high school student's life into a positive experience. This book provides concrete research on the best ways to succeed on a test that serves as the last big milestone before kids leave for college.

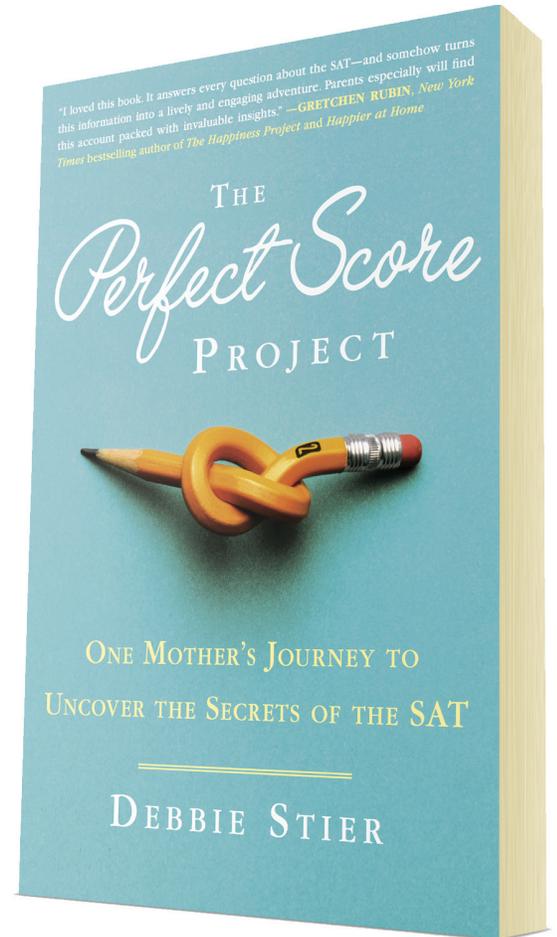
Debbie Stier tries it all, from regularly meeting with a premier grammar coach, taking a battery of intelligence tests, studying with the world's most prestigious (and expensive) test prep company, to spending time at **Kumon** - the world's largest after-school math and reading program.

"I think of [the Kumon worksheets] as caulking. They seal up the cracks in knowledge that open up over your years in math class... Almost everyone has math gaps, except the kids who do Kumon. Kumon kids are solid gold because they do twenty minutes a day of math worksheets, regardless of what's going on in school."

– **DEBBIE STIER** in *The Perfect Score Project*

"It's never too late to start a Kumon program, and it can only help, especially if a student has a nice long runway and is willing to put in an extra twenty to thirty minutes a day. The assignments are timed so that students are accustomed to managing time constraints (i.e., testing conditions) and the worksheets reinforce skills through daily repetition, locking in knowledge that may have been covered in school but is shallow rather than deep."

– **DEBBIE STIER** in *The Perfect Score Project*



HARMONY  
BOOKS

**Learn more at [PerfectScoreProject.com](http://PerfectScoreProject.com)**

[The Perfect Score Project](http://PerfectScoreProject.com) / 9780307956682 / \$15.00

Also available in hardcover, as an unabridged audio CD, unabridged audio book download, and ebook.

# INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR DEBBIE STIER

We had the opportunity to speak with Debbie Stier, author of *The Perfect Score Project*, which chronicles her quest to motivate her teenage son to do well on the SAT. Over the course of one year, this journey led Debbie to take the SAT *seven times* while discovering tips to ace the exam along the way.

In the book, she highlights several resources that aided her journey. Among those featured was Kumon, in the chapter Kumon: *Get 'Em While They're Munchkins*. She describes Kumon not as a “quick fix” but as a tool necessary to seal learning gaps and fully grasp the fundamentals. Like most parents, Debbie simply wanted to help her son maximize his true potential. We're excited to share Debbie's insight with you! Her advice, which you can read in greater detail in *The Perfect Score Project*, is full of valuable tips any parent would appreciate.

## **As a working mom with two teenage kids, what motivated you to immerse yourself so deeply in preparing for the SAT?**

The project was initially an attempt to motivate my teenage son, Ethan, to care about the SAT enough to study hard and reach his potential.

Since I had no idea what that would entail, I started my research by subscribing to the College Board's SAT Question-of-the-Day – which, to my surprise, I found myself enjoying. The questions were like a little puzzle first thing each morning, and a week or so in, I got hooked. In a moment of unbridled enthusiasm, I declared I was going to try to get the perfect SAT score. After that, “training” for the SAT became a personal challenge, like training to run the Marathon (which I did in 2004).

Not too long after I decided I would take the SAT myself, my personal project became a book project, for which I took the SAT every time it was offered in 2011 (7 times in all), the year before my son would be taking the SAT. At that point the project turned into a kind of “consumer reports” on test prep and the test itself.

## **In *The Perfect Score Project* you expressed the need for “a pencil or pen and paper to feel like something is sticking.” How did the process of writing by hand as opposed to keyboarding help you prepare for the SAT?**

While preparing for the SAT, I discovered that I dislike online learning, which surprised me because I love computers. I felt a need to write by hand in order to make what I was learning stick.

Subsequently, while writing the book, I discovered research that substantiated what I had felt: there is a connection between handwriting and learning.

Virginia Berninger, a professor of educational psychology at the University of Washington, finds that handwriting differs from typing in that it requires executing sequential strokes, whereas keyboarding involves selecting a whole letter by touching a key. Her research shows that handwriting increases brain activity, hones fine motor skills, aids memory, and can even predict a child's academic success in ways that keyboarding cannot.

*You can read the rest of this interview by visiting the Kumon.com website:  
<http://www.kumon.com/resources/interview-with-author-debbie-stier/>*



**DEBBIE STIER** is a single mother of two teenagers. Her book publishing career has spanned two decades, most of it spent in PR in which she was responsible for publicizing dozens of iconic books, ranging from *The Notebook* to *Marley and Me*. Frequently covered by the media, including *MediaBistro*, *New York Observer* and *New York* magazine, Debbie regularly speaks on topics pertaining to social media and technology as well as, most recently, standardized testing. She lives with her son and daughter in New York City, but you can find her at [PerfectScoreProject.com](http://PerfectScoreProject.com).

