

Testing

PSAT 10

Who: Sophomores

When: a date set by College Board, usually in early March

Where: MHS Auditorium

Why is the test given: The PSAT 10 is a mandatory test for all Sophomores which provides early practice for the SAT and other standardized tests which the student will take in their junior year. It can also help students to identify gaps in their learning that they can use to help identify areas of greatest need that they may need to focus.

Cost: None, at this time the cost is absorbed by the high school.

Registration: None, registration is handled through the high school guidance office.

PSAT/NMSQT

Who: College-bound Juniors

When: a date set by College Board, usually in early October

Where: MHS Auditorium

Why the test is given: For juniors, this test is the first step in participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The highest-scoring students in each state become semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarships. Semifinalists must meet additional standards and fulfill several requirements to become a finalist and be considered in the rigorous competitions for National Merit Scholarships. This test will further assist juniors in preparing for the spring SAT, which is now the state mandated test which all juniors must take.

Cost: \$15.00 in 2016. Payment is due when students sign-up. Students who are absent on testing day will be refunded their test fee. There is no make-up date for the PSAT/NMSQT.

Registration: Students sign-up in the Guidance Office. Space is limited, so it is recommended that interested students sign-up as soon as possible.

ACT

Who: Juniors

When: We suggest that students take the ACT on the national test dates in February and April. However, students may take the test whenever they feel ready as is it recommended that they take the test as many times as they wish to improve their scores. Dates and registration information can be found at www.actstudent.org. The tests are scheduled on Saturdays from 8:00am-12:30pm. Students are asked to be at their testing site no later than 7:45am on testing days.

Where: Students may take the ACT at any testing site. MHS is a testing site for the February and April test dates.

Why is the test given: This is the standardized test that many colleges and universities require for admission. Most students take the ACT more than one time. Colleges take only the highest scores into consideration for admissions decisions.

Cost: Non-Writing: \$42.50

Writing: \$58.50

Registration: Students are responsible for their own registration and can be done at www.actstudent.org. Please be advised the registration process is lengthy. ACT estimates that it takes about 1 hour. Part of the registration is an interest inventory. For this reason, it is suggested that student's complete registration themselves rather than a parent doing it for them. The registration form also requires students to enter the classes and grades they earned in high school. Students may request a copy of their transcript from the guidance office. *Students with an IEP or 504 plan must see their guidance counselor to request testing accommodations.*

SAT

Who: Juniors and Seniors

When: Mandatory State test date is in early April, other test dates are held throughout the year. Dates can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

Where: MHS is not currently a testing site for the SAT. National testing sites are listed in the SAT registration materials.

Why the test is given: The SAT is now the state mandated standardized test for all juniors in the state of Illinois. But also, serves as the standardized test that some college and universities use when making admission determinations.

Cost: Non-Essay: \$45

Essay: \$57

Registration: www.collegeboard.com. Students are responsible for registering themselves and paying SAT directly for tests taken outside of the state mandated test date, that registration and payment are handled separately.

Maximizing Test Scores

- ✓ Students may use KAHN Academy, which provides free practice for the SAT. When KAHN Academy is connected to the student's College Board account it will allow the student to access individualized practice based on their past performance on standardized tests. This also allows general practice for other standardized tests.
- ✓ ACT also provides test prep resources on their website at www.actstudent.org.
- ✓ Take challenging courses in the core subject areas of Math, English, and Science.
- ✓ Take a "test prep" class to review skills that you learned a year-or two ago.
- ✓ Take the test at least twice. There is no way to duplicate the testing atmosphere outside of an actual testing session.
- ✓ Evaluate your pacing. If you ran out of time on a section of the test, give yourself timed practice until you have the pace mastered.
- ✓ Get a good night's sleep the night before.
- ✓ Eat a good breakfast
- ✓ Bring a light snack to eat at the 10-minute break. You must leave it outside the testing area, however.
- ✓ Get to the testing site at least 20 minutes early.