



St. Johns High School

Stephanie Mouritsen, *Principal*

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February 25, 2025

Dear St. Johns High School 11th Grade Students and their Parents/Guardians,

We want to inform you that all juniors at St. Johns High School will be taking the statewide ACT test on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025.**

Why the ACT Matters:

This required Arizona state standardized test is provided free to all 11th graders and is an important milestone for students, as it assesses college and workplace readiness. The ACT is widely used for college admissions and to determine merit-based scholarships. St. Johns High School uses ACT testing information to determine how to better support students and prepare them for post-high school opportunities. The Arizona Department of Education uses ACT testing rates and results to determine our school letter grade (in 2024 we earned an A grade). Because this is an important exam for our school and our students, we ask you to help support our students and encourage them to do their very best!

Important Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025
- **Time:** Students must arrive at school by **7:45 AM**. Testing will begin promptly at **8:00 AM**.
 - *If a student arrives late, they will not be allowed (by ACT) to take the exam with the other students.*
 - The exam will end at 12:20 PM*, at which time all juniors will be dismissed for a late/extended lunch until 1:20 PM. Students will return to school at 1:20 PM and attend 5th, 6th, and 7th periods.
- **Tested Subjects:** English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing (in this order)
- **Location:** St. Johns High School
- **Other:** To minimize distractions during the testing time, no announcements will be made and bells will be turned off until after all students are dismissed from testing. Students will be divided into several testing rooms (to maintain the ACT testing setting requirements) and supervised by teachers and staff trained as ACT test proctors. Students are required to stay during their entire testing time. Please do not schedule appointments or other activities that will take students out of school during this testing period.

What to Bring:

- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers (no mechanical pencils)
 - If you do not have any, the school will have some pencils available for use.
- An ACT-approved calculator (optional, but highly recommended)
 - **ACT Calculator Policy:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y_8IWUs6BHx2q8jgTONXLm3COiz1lrBy/view?usp=sharing
 - If you do not have an approved calculator, the school will have some available for use.
- A water bottle with a lid and a small snack to eat during designated breaks
 - If you do not have a water bottle or snacks, the school will have some available for you.

Do NOT Bring:

- Mechanical pencils or ink pens
- Any ACT-prohibited calculators (see the ACT Calculator Policy, linked previously)
- Cell phones, smartwatches, or any electronic devices are not allowed during testing.

Preparing for the ACT:

While our SJHS English, math, social studies, and science teachers have been preparing students throughout the year with ACT practice questions and test-taking strategies, there are other supports and opportunities available to maximize student success.

To help students perform their best on the day of the test, all school activities for juniors will end the night prior by 5:00 PM, so that students may get a good night's sleep before the test, wake up well-rested, and be on-time for the exam. We ask that students eat a healthy breakfast in the morning, whether at home or at our own school cafeteria.

We encourage students to review ACT practice materials in the coming days. Free resources, including practice tests, are available at www.act.org and Varsity Tutors for Schools (linked on our school website under "Student Resources"). The Loft Legacy Teen Center has also been conducting an ACT preparation class each Friday morning from 8:00-10:00 AM, and will continue every Friday until the ACT test (except during spring break, March 14).

Questions:

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office at **(928) 337-2221** or email us at hsoffice@staff.sjUSD.net. If you have questions about the ACT as the statewide high school achievement test for Arizona, visit <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/act>.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your student is prepared and on-time for this important test.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mouritsen
Principal
St. Johns High School

*Students with an IEP or 504 plan will be provided their designated accommodations for state testing, as listed in their individual plan, which may include extended testing time.