

Below you will find our standardized testing guidelines, and further down you will find information on standardized testing preparation.

Standardized Testing Timelines:

We understand that there is much information out in the world regarding taking the ACT and SAT tests "often and early". We do not subscribe to that ideology for various reasons that are supported by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC). We believe that the schedule below is the ideal testing timeline for our students. As you know, the SAT is the mandated state test for juniors within the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The SAT will be given at school in April with an explanation beforehand. All post-secondary institutions will take either the ACT or the SAT, while just a few will require the SAT Subject tests. If you have questions regarding the testing timeline, please contact your counselor.

9th Grade

Practice PSAT given in school in April. No registration is necessary.

10th Grade

Practice PSAT given in school in April. No registration is necessary.

11th Grade

PSAT in school in October of junior year.

This is the test that may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition (top .5%)

Not reportable to colleges (no risk)

Scores returned to students by December

Students receive a test booklet, their answers, and the correct answers so they can check their work.

ACT Plus Writing

The student must register at actstudent.org to sign up for the ACT tests

If you wish to take it early, we recommend Dec/Feb of Junior year at the earliest

Re-taking it at least once is common

Taking it more than 3 times is not advisable

Not all universities require the writing portion- verify this for your schools of interest

SAT

Students must go to Collegeboard.com to register for all SAT tests and select a testing location nearby.

Take beginning in January of Junior year at the earliest.

Students will take the SAT for free in school as part of the MME testing in April. Registration is not necessary.

Can re-take throughout the spring

Taking it more than 3 times is not advisable

12th Grade

Re-take ACT in July **if necessary**

Re-take SAT in Aug/Sept. **if necessary**

*** Check college websites and application requirements to see if testing is required, optional, self-report, or super score.**

Standardized Testing Preparation:

Please note that the IA Counseling Department does not want families to feel that they must send their children to fee-based test preparation courses in order to do well on standardized tests and be admissible to competitive colleges. These programs often carry a large cost that is not feasible for most. Please review your previous standardized testing performance to determine if you actually need test preparation or not. The IA curriculum

prepares students for these tests. Test preparation should not interfere with school work. The school transcript remains the most important piece of evidence in a college application.

These are commonly used test prep companies that students have used in the past. The IA Counseling Department does not endorse one company over the other.

ACT Test Prep Resources

Free Resources:

Michigan Virtual Library - <http://goo.gl/A0Zr7>

ACT - offers free and fee-based resources: <http://www.actstudent.org>

Number 2 - <http://www.number2.com>

March 2 Success - <https://www.march2success.com/index.cfm>

Fee-based Resources:

ACT Strategic Training Class - <http://www.michigancollegefunding.com>

Carson Academic Consultants - carsonacademics@gmail.com

Huntington Test Preparation - <http://huntingtonlearning.com/page/sat-psat-act-prep/>

Kaplan Test Preparation - <http://www.kaptest.com/>

Princeton Review - <http://www.princetonreview.com/college-bound.aspx>

College Quest-<http://www.collegequestmi.com/>

Study Point - <http://www.studypoint.com/detroit-act-tutoring.php>

SAT Test Prep Resources

Free Workshops: Princeton Review

Free Resources:

Michigan Virtual Library - <http://goo.gl/A0Zr7>

College Board - offers free and fee-based resources: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

Khan Academy

March 2 Success - <https://www.march2success.com/index.cfm>

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Kaplan Test Preparation - <http://www.kaptest.com/>

Princeton Review - <http://www.princetonreview.com/college-bound.aspx>

College Quest-<http://www.collegequestmi.com/>