

Guidance News Term 3

Junior-SAT/ACT Testing

Probably the most important thing to do before the beginning of the senior year is take the SAT or ACT. These tests are very important and should be taken before the beginning of the senior year. Both exams take approximately 3 hours and 3 weeks to receive scores.



Advantages to testing in your junior year

1. College Credit Classes— Next year seniors will have the opportunity to receive credits toward college by taking the dual credit courses we offer. These courses are offered through a partnership through Ivy Tech and transfer to all Indiana colleges. These courses are free at SV. We use scores from the SAT, ACT or PSAT to determine if a student is eligible to receive credit. Students can check in the guidance office to see if their scores are acceptable.
2. Convenience— If you wait until your senior year it will be really hard to fit the test into your busy schedule.
3. Scores— If you take one of these tests and are not happy with your scores you will still have time to take the test over. Also, after taking the test you may decide to take an additional class in an area in which your test score was low.
4. College— The earlier you take the SAT or ACT the earlier you can apply to college. Applying to college early increases your chance of being accepted and being offered scholarships.
5. Course Work— You've probably already completed the coursework corresponding to the test material.
6. Campus Visits— You'll have information about yourself and the schools you're interested in prior to your campus visits, making your visits more helpful.

Get a jump start on the SAT or ACT by visiting www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org for SAT and ACT prep information, free practice test and the SAT and ACT question of the day. You can also download SAT and ACT apps to your smartphone. The Khan Academy is a great place to take a SAT practice test.

TEN TIPS FOR TAKING A STANDARDIZED EXAM

- Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
- If you feel nervous before beginning, try to relax by taking a few deep breaths.
- Maintain confidence in your abilities and plan to do your best. Your attitude can affect your performance.
- Listen carefully to all instructions and ask questions if you hear something you don't understand.
- Focus your attention entirely on your work.
- Position your answer sheet next to your test booklet so you can mark answers quickly and accurately.
- Before answering each question, read it completely, as well as all the possible responses.
- When you are unsure of an answer, choose the one you think is best and go on to the next question. Do not spend too much time on any question.
- Pace yourself throughout the test by occasionally checking the time.
- If you complete the test before your time is up, reread the questions and check your answers.

Helpful Testing Websites

<http://www.petersons.com/college-search/test-prep-topics.aspx>

www.collegeboard.org — www.actstudent.org

www.svalley.k12.in.us — <http://www.princetonreview.com/>



Free or Reduced lunch students- If you are taking the ACT or the SAT outside of Springs Valley-

Pick up a fee waiver in the GUIDANCE OFFICE

Prom is quickly approaching! April 27th

Make sure you pay your class dues in order to attend PROM



I am going to start Junior classroom meetings in the next few weeks to go over schedules for next year. If you would like to meet with me about your student please email me at denbo@svalley.k12.in.us to set up an appointment time.

Indiana ICC– This program consist of students taking 30 dual credits in high school that are guaranteed to transfer to any public college in Indiana. Students will learn more about this during scheduling later this month.

SAT

SVHS — March 7th

All JUNIORS are required to test on this date



There's an App for that! There are tons of ACT and SAT apps to help you study for these test. The Khan Academy has great SAT practice test and an app to help you study for the test.

ACT vs. SAT

- *The decision of which test to take may be determined simply by whatever admission criteria is laid out by your school of choice. However, if the school doesn't specify which test they want, making the "best" choice doesn't have to be difficult.
- *Take a look at the following key comparison of the ACT and the SAT. All students will take the digital SAT at Springs Valley.

1. Begin with a practice test– see which exam suits you best.
2. Students with a strong English background tend to do better on the ACT while strong math students usually like the SAT better
3. The SAT has ended the optional essay while the ACT continues to offer an optional 40 minute writing test.
4. We give the digital version of the SAT. The digital SAT is 2 hours and 14 minutes. The ACT is two hours and 55 minutes.
5. You do not lose points for wrong answers.
6. The ACT has a science section. The SAT does not but does incorporate science throughout the exam.
7. The ACT is scored 1-36. The SAT is 400-1600.
8. Check with the post-secondary institution you will be applying. Most schools take either test but some don't.
9. The SAT has a math section that does not allow a calculator.

Resource: US News and Forbes