

## Testing Information

Much confusion exists concerning the “best” test to take. ACT or SAT. For decades, the most common test for high schools and colleges in the Midwest and central portions of our nation has been the ACT. In addition, for many years, the State of Illinois paid for all public high school students to take the ACT. When they recently re-bid the contract for testing, the SAT program underbid ACT. Therefore, now, all Illinois public school students take the SAT for free at their local high school.

Most colleges and universities nationwide accept either test. However, most colleges in our region are more familiar with the ACT. In addition, our school utilizes the ASPIRE testing program, produced by ACT, from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup>. We also administer the Pre-ACT to all sophomores as part of our regular testing program. Our students will typically be more familiar with the ACT type testing experience. However, we also offer the PSAT/NMSQT to all juniors to provide them with a “Pre-SAT” testing experience as well.

### **I suggest the following:**

1. Take the test your university prefers or is most familiar with. This puts you in the best position for a positive response for both admission and scholarship decisions.
2. Take the test you are most comfortable with. Note that the SAT has only two components, Math and Evidence Based Reading/Writing, while the ACT has four components, English, Math, Reading and Science. Therefore half of the SAT is math. If math is your strong subject, consider taking the SAT. If not, take the ACT.
3. Take both. Retake the one you felt better with.

### Test Registration.

Note that you register, schedule and pay for the test through the following links. While some tests are given on Saturdays at LHS, you must register through these companies. See below for the test schedule and dates that LHS hosts each test.

[ACT Register Here](#)

[SAT Register Here](#)

### **Test Preparation Options:**

LHS offers free ACT and SAT test preparation programs online through your account with the **Career Information System**. [Log in here](#).

[ACT test prep resources](#)

[SAT test prep resources](#)

**AP Testing**

Students do not have to take any special class to take an AP test. You just need to register for the test. Many of the honors level classes at LHS will prepare a student to take the AP. It is recommended that you excel in those classes for which you plan to test.

Check with your college or university to confirm they accept AP test for college credit.

Test registration will typically take place through your teacher. Come to the Guidance office if you need additional information, or select the following link:

[AP Testing](#)

**CLEP Testing**

The College Board (the same company that produces the SAT and the AP tests) also provides CLEP testing which enables you to get college credit with successful completion of their exam. The only difference is that CLEP testing is online, and not paper and pencil. This is also a very inexpensive way for you to get college credit for taking a honors level class with success. They offer tests in dozens of areas.

[CLEP Testing](#)