



AP/ACT Prep,
Little Patriots,
Comics, Games,
and More!

the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

SECOND SEMESTER GOALS

Personally, being a senior second-semester truly makes me anxious, and also excited. Senioritis is very real, and it is hard to climb over the big mountain it has put in my way.

I know we all turn in our assignments later than we are supposed to, but we should try to maintain our homework and put in the effort so our second semester can go smoother than the first. Most of us have to balance school alongside many things like work, volunteering, sports, family, and our social lives. One of the biggest mistakes I made during high school was not allowing myself to break away from doing homework all the time stressing myself out with tests, and finding time to do the things I like. It is important to manage your time in high school in order to be successful, and by doing this we can take some of the stress off of our shoulders.

Freshmen, you still have six more semesters after this year, and that may seem like a lot, but it does go by quickly enough (although some days it won't feel like it), and soon enough you will be walking across the stage at graduation. My advice to you would be to keep up with your work because it will only exceed from here; be kind to others as these will be your peers for the next three years; and find time to relax.

The sophomores only have half of their high school life ahead of them, and most of them will start driver's education. I would advise you to challenge yourselves as there are more options of courses you can take next year and don't be afraid to sign up for something that seems challenging.

Juniors, I hope you guys are excited about the ACT. No? But seriously, take in the resources available to all of you and do a few practices now and then; you could do some while you are in study hall or when you are waiting for dinner to be done. It doesn't have to be every day, but you will need to practice any and all skills you have ever learned up to now. You should all try your best to put forth a good effort as your score can help you up your stakes in college admissions.

And seniors, it is our last second semester of high school. I don't know about you guys, but I still remember being a freshman, and thinking that East was a little bit intimidating at first. I have come to realize though that it was because I didn't know many people, and I wasn't familiar with the teachers, or a bigger school in general because of the online/hybrid middle school era. We have all met new people that we are glad became friends and that we can rely on. Although this year is coming to an end, many of us are going on to college or straight into the workforce, and we all have many things lying ahead of us in our path.

- TORI BAERENWALD

Graduation Preparation

With the first semester now in the past, the Class of 2025 has begun looking towards the event that signifies the end of their high school careers: graduation. Before the students can walk the stage and receive their diplomas though, there is a lot of preparation to be done.

The final months leading up to graduation can be hectic, so Mrs. Flannery-Bosin has put together a checklist including major dates and events to help keep seniors on-track and informed. Copies of this list were passed out in senior homerooms at the beginning of the school year, but can also be accessed through the homeroom Canvas tile. The most recent deadline was for cap and gown orders on February 10; if you are a senior and did not meet this deadline, you can still purchase these materials, but it is not guaranteed that your order will be processed or shipped on time.

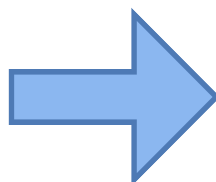
The next important event takes place on March 17, which is when the submissions window for the senior slideshow will open. You may submit up to three photos of yourself for the slideshow: one baby photo, one childhood photo, and one senior photo. Additional group photos of your senior classmates throughout the years may also be submitted. The deadline to turn these photos in is May 2, with the exception of prom photos, which will be accepted until May 16.

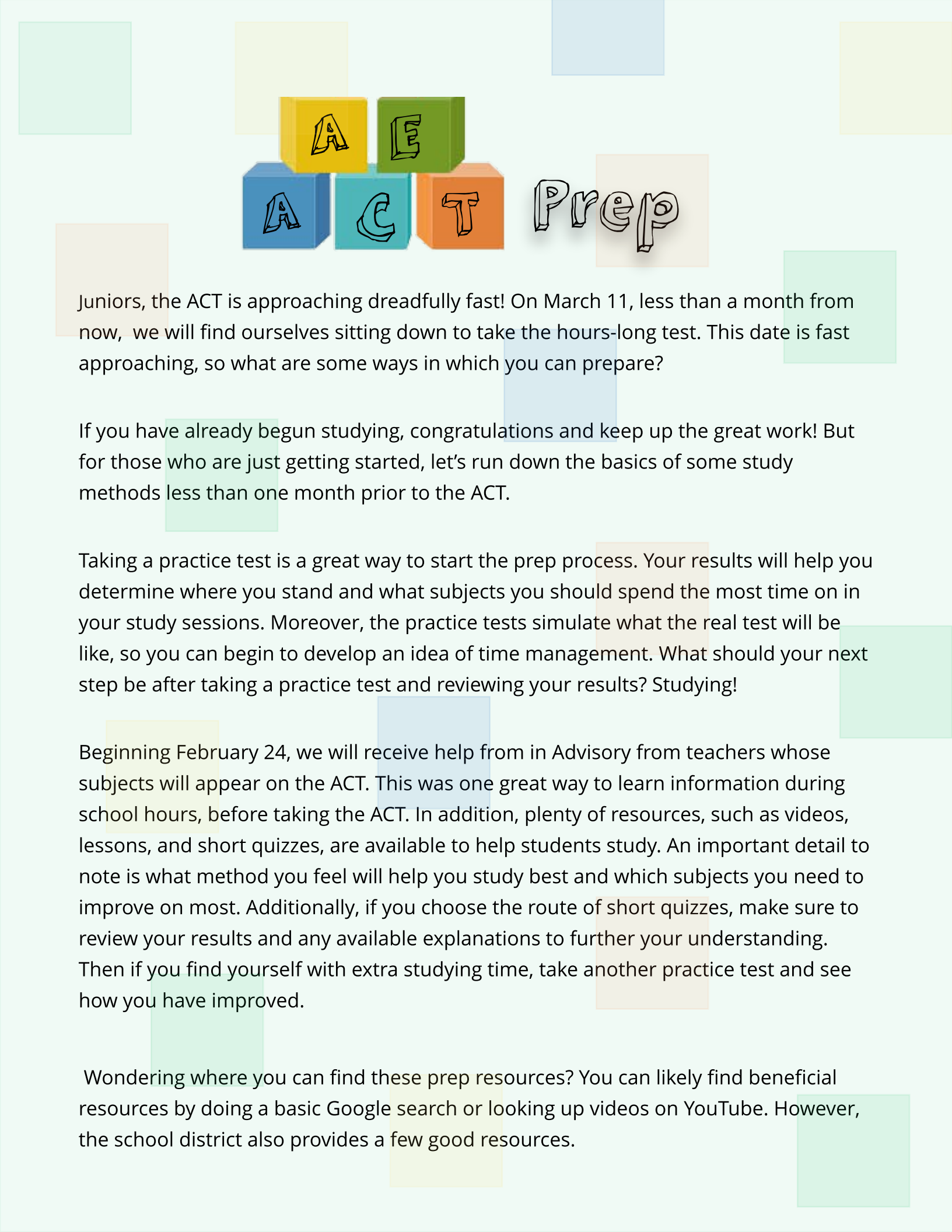
Even with a checklist to help keep you on track, it can be difficult to fight off the “senioritis” that so many students are currently dealing with. Using graduation as motivation to keep on top of your school work can be a useful tool. Now more than ever, it is imperative that seniors are showing up to class, maintaining their grades, and taking care of any outstanding detentions in order to participate in graduation activities occurring later in the year.

While the second semester of senior year can be overwhelming, make sure to enjoy it as much as possible; you never know where life will take you after graduation!

- Lila Bornemann

**Click the Cap for
the graduation
checklist!**



The background of the page is decorated with several semi-transparent squares in light green, light yellow, and light blue. The main title 'ACT Prep' is centered at the top. 'ACT' is formed by three 3D blocks: a blue block with a white 'A', a teal block with a white 'C', and an orange block with a white 'T'. Above the 'A' and 'C' blocks are two more 3D blocks: a yellow one with a black 'A' and a green one with a black 'E'. To the right of these blocks, the word 'Prep' is written in a white, stylized, outlined font on a light orange rectangular background.

ACT Prep

Juniors, the ACT is approaching dreadfully fast! On March 11, less than a month from now, we will find ourselves sitting down to take the hours-long test. This date is fast approaching, so what are some ways in which you can prepare?

If you have already begun studying, congratulations and keep up the great work! But for those who are just getting started, let's run down the basics of some study methods less than one month prior to the ACT.

Taking a practice test is a great way to start the prep process. Your results will help you determine where you stand and what subjects you should spend the most time on in your study sessions. Moreover, the practice tests simulate what the real test will be like, so you can begin to develop an idea of time management. What should your next step be after taking a practice test and reviewing your results? Studying!

Beginning February 24, we will receive help from in Advisory from teachers whose subjects will appear on the ACT. This was one great way to learn information during school hours, before taking the ACT. In addition, plenty of resources, such as videos, lessons, and short quizzes, are available to help students study. An important detail to note is what method you feel will help you study best and which subjects you need to improve on most. Additionally, if you choose the route of short quizzes, make sure to review your results and any available explanations to further your understanding. Then if you find yourself with extra studying time, take another practice test and see how you have improved.

Wondering where you can find these prep resources? You can likely find beneficial resources by doing a basic Google search or looking up videos on YouTube. However, the school district also provides a few good resources.

Methodize, a program linked through Xello, includes lessons with adjoining quizzes and full-length practice tests. Over 18 units, composed of roughly four lessons each, the course dives into strategies that help you tackle test questions more efficiently and accurately. Separate sections give you the option to target subjects that pose a larger challenge than others or conquer the course as a whole.

Methodize also includes evaluation tests and three practice tests, one of which juniors already took this year. These tests are great ways to prepare because they provide immediate feedback for review. Further, *sdmylife* states that completion of this course can raise your test score by up to three points. Therefore, Methodize is one great way to tackle studying for the ACT.

Another accessible preparation method is the Official ACT Prep Guides which are located in the school library. While in the library you can utilize the books for multiple full-length practice tests, answer explanations, and test day tips. The book's size may make it look like a vast feat, but it is split into easy-to-navigate sections, with a large portion dedicated to explanations.

Therefore, don't worry, there is still plenty of time to prepare for the ACT if you would like to. Just remember to target your weak spots and review all wrong answers. Good luck, juniors! Sophomores, remember it may not be a bad time to start thinking about how you want to prepare for the ACT next year.

= Grace Boe



Appleton East Prep

J.K. Rowling, author of *Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire*, once wrote: "The trouble was that February the twenty-fourth looked a lot closer from this side of Christmas, and he still hadn't done anything about working out the clue inside the golden egg." This can also, as many Potter fans are aware, be applied to our upcoming AP tests this spring.

This writer has experienced the newfound pressure after the holidays that comes from the electrifying revelation that exams are indeed much, much closer. Suddenly the need to organize and study becomes real and begins demanding all of your time. However, there is no need for fear if they follow my tips for exam preparation, and not panic as Harry did within procrastination, bad habits, and giving up hope entirely.

Here are my top AP Exam test tips:

1. Begin Early

People new to AP courses, perhaps in freshman or sophomore standing, may have a difficult time getting started. However, the best thing to do for long-term success is to begin reviewing concepts as early as possible so that it can stick in your brain.

2. Get or Borrow An AP Test Prep Book

Although this sounds cliché, brand materials such as AMSCO textbooks and preparation books are pure gold in college-level courses. There are options to choose from, as you can get material-focused books about the content of the course, or rather an exam-focused guide that includes everything you need to know about the structure, kinds of questions, and duration of the parts of the exam. The Appleton East Library has plenty of these test preparation materials, ranging from Calculus to World History.

3. Habitual Studying

Every AP teacher at Appleton East will most likely agree that consistency is absolutely key for successful study habits. To study effectively, plan a regular time slot in which to immerse yourself in your course. Depending on the difficulty and amount of AP courses, a daily regimen of 30 minutes to one hour is recommended.

4. Use Online Resources

Many students find that online videos and websites often help give them clarity in studying. Whether it is Crash Courses, key terms videos, or timelines, these all play a vital role in delivering information to the long-term memory in creative ways that are engaging and interesting. Some student favorites are Heimler's History, Riley Sinn, and Khan Academy.

5. Healthy Physical Lifestyle

In order to succeed academically, your physical standards must also be on-par. Make it objective to put down your phone one hour before bed, and read to get a restful, healthy sleep of 8-10 hours. Eat nutrient-rich foods such as fruits, vegetables, and proteins, full of vitamins and minerals to fuel brain activity. Drink plenty of water: about 6-10 cups per day. Maintain bodily function and health with regular daily physical activity, promoting blood flow and strength. All of this can maximize success not only in preparation for analysis of materials, but also in the exam itself.

- Ella Ranes



● Little Patriots' Preschool ●

Questioning recent toddler sightings in East halls?

These little friends are attending the Little Patriots' Preschool.

This program is run by Mrs. Biese's Child Development class which allows students to work with younger children while offering an affordable daycare option for parents. It is a fun opportunity for students to make lesson plans for the attendees and assist the Little Patriots through daily activities.

"I am excited for the preschool to begin! It's a real-life application with what we are learning in class," said Mrs. Biese, "and I think this is a great opportunity for students to get hands-on experience with kids because not every student has little ones in their life to interact with."

East's Little Patriots (children two through four years old) will be at school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, until March 13. Therefore, there is no need to fret if you see one of the Little Patriots walking with their buddies, but please try to exude your best Patriot character to be a positive role model for our "little" additions to East.

- Grace Boe



| Silo Solo Ensemble |

Solo ensemble is among the most exciting and rewarding events on the high school music calendar. It's an annual competition that allows students to showcase their talents in front of judges while developing their craft in a focused and meaningful way. This year, Appleton East is hosting solo ensemble for the first time in about eight years.

Unlike large performances, solo ensemble allows individuals or small groups to have the spotlight. Students participate in different categories such as solos, duets, and trios. This also allows the participants to extend and grow beyond their performances. During this time, students learn discipline and responsibility as they prepare pieces. Many also gain valuable feedback from the judges who provide constructive comments to help the student grow later on.



While this is a big event, it also takes planning and relearning the procedures and what needs to get done. Mr. VanSickle, choir teacher at East, is organizing this event. "Right now, we're reviewing all of the procedures and the organizational aspects so that we can make sure the event runs smoothly. It takes a ton of parent, family, and student volunteers to pull this off." Mr. VanSickle elaborated "We're working on recruiting over a hundred different people to help over the two weekends. We also have to provide food for the families and for the judges as well as arrange for pianos and piano tuning in all of the sites." While it may be a lot to organize and get together, Mr. VanSickle and many others are doing their best to put together a wonderful event. If you're interested in helping out, check out this [site](#) for more information.

As the final preparations come together, the excitement is building. Solo Ensemble reminds us of the power of music to bring people together, challenge us to be our best, and celebrate the joy of performance. It will be on February 22 and March 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and February 28 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Appleton East is ready to rise to the occasion and make this event one to remember.

- Cynthia Vang

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATE HIS LEGACY MARTIN LUTHER KING

February is Black History Month!

Martin Luther King was a brave individual who stood up for what he believed was right. During the mid-1950s, Martin Luther King led the civil rights movement in the United States (Encyclopædia Britannica). He was a Baptist minister and a social activist. He played a huge role in ending legal segregation of African Americans in the South, also leading the March on Washington in 1963.

King was “famed for advocating for civil disobedience and nonviolent methods to push back against racism and segregation” (Lagatta). King is maybe most famous for his “I Have a Dream” speech!

King accomplished many things during his era, but sadly, he was assassinated. He was on the second floor balcony outside his room at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. Today, it is a museum that holds his items. Fifteen years after King’s death, civil activists were finally able to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a nationally observed holiday (Lagatta).

The U.S. celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.’s day on the third Monday of January. It was timed to honor King’s birthday on Jan. 15, 1929 (Lagatta, 2025). However, it rarely falls on his actual birthday because of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

[Learn more about MLK!](#)



History Of Valentine's Day

'Tis' the season of love! But what started it all?

Valentine's Day is the time of year where we all express our love for each other through acts of kindness, but do you know the history of Valentine's Day? Let me share with you the story of Valentine's Day and its origin.

Back in the third century when Rome ruled most of Europe, there was an emperor, Claudius, who was known for taking part in major battles and wars. With these different battles Claudius needed the men of his civilization to rise up and go to war for him. Unfortunately for him, these individuals resented the idea of going to war because it meant that they would be leaving their loved ones and risking the chance to ever see them again. Claudius was enraged and put a law into place that forbade any man from marrying, so there was no excuse as to why they could not go to war.

A local Catholic priest, Valentine, was not fond of the new law, so he helped loving couples get married in secrecy. The news spread, and soon Claudius learned that Valentine was deliberately going against his ruling. He imprisoned Valentine. Within the prison, the jailer had a blind daughter, Julia, who was interested in learning. Out of kindness, Valentine promised to teach Julia. As time went on, it is believed that Valentine had granted Julia a miracle, the gift of sight, a true gift of his love for his student.

Valentine was executed by the Roman Empire on February 14. On that day, though, Valentine had written a final farewell to Julia, signing it as "Your Valentine." When the news of his passing spread, the Catholics declared Valentine to not only to be a martyr (somebody killed for their beliefs) but also assigned him the title of Saint Valentine.

As the loving season is upon us, the true heart of Valentine's Day is a time to remember who we truly care for and express our love to one another.

-Layla Schiesl

Puzzles & Games

- Mats Riddlehoover

Wordle: [Play here!](#)

Try to guess the hidden word in six guesses or less!



= the letter does not appear in the word



= the letter does appear in the word, but in a different spot



= the letter appears in the word in that spot

Connections: [Play here!](#)

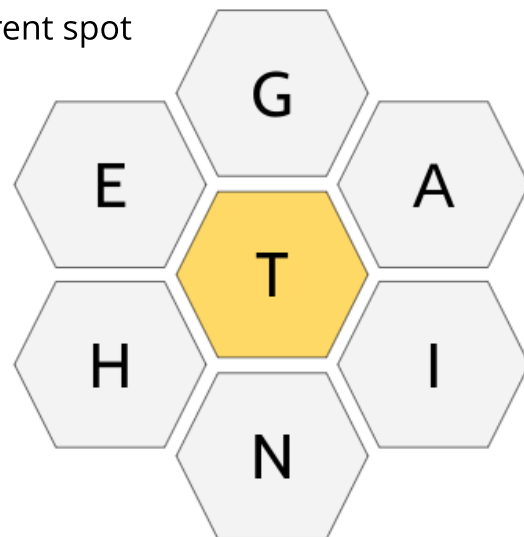
Make four groups of four connected words!



= easiest



= hardest



Spelling Bee: Make as many words as possible with the letters above!

- All words must contain the center letter and all words must be at least four letters long
- Letters may be used multiple times within one word
- Four-letter words are worth one point, any words longer than four letters are worth the number of points equal to the number of letters in the word
- There is at least one word that can be made using all seven letters, called a pangram. A pangram is worth seven bonus points plus the word's length, so a seven-letter pangram would be worth 14 points. (See last page for answers.)

Always read the instructions.



-Comics by Liliana Monson

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Courier Contributors:

Tori Baerenwald: Second Semester Goals

Grace Boe: Patriots Daycare, ACT Prep

Lila Bornemann: Graduation Prep

Yuna Lee: MLK

Liliana Monson: Comics

Ella Ranes: AP Prep

Mats Ridlehoover: Games

Layla Schiesl: History of Valentine's Day

Cynthia Vang: Solo Ensemble

Editors:

Lila Bornemann

Jo Buck

Liliana Monson

Cynthia Vang

Adviser:

Mr. Otis

The Courier, Appleton East's student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by Patriot students and staff.

Next Meeting!

Thursday, February 20, during Flex! Room 1112

Sign up for Mr. Otis. We hope to see you there!

EAST

Spelling Beast Answer- HEATING