

Session 3: March 5, 2025

Todd Porter - School Counselor 11-12

Items to discuss this morning

1 | SAT vs ACT

- Which one should I take
- Which one is easier
- Which one have less math
- Do colleges want one or the other
- How many times should I take the test

2 | Test Optional

- What does this mean
- If I dont send my scores do I have a lesser chance of getting accepted
- Will I be out for merit based scholarship
- Will it hurt my application

3 | Senior Schedule

- BALANCE
- Academic Rigor
- Interested in learning more
- AP or Dual Enrollment?
- Pay or not pay for the credit
- Will all colleges take the credit from Belmont Ab.

SAT vs ACT

- Student preference - Never a one size fits all answer
- SAT tends to have a longer reading passage
- ACT allows for the use of a calculator
- ACT offers an optional science section, while the SAT does not
- ACT offers a paper exam while the SAT does not
- SAT - 2 hour test now compared to the 3 hour pencil test
- SAT - now offers 4 answer choices like the ACT
- No penalty for wrong answers on both the ACT and SAT

How is the ACT Changing

- Two hours and five minutes for Math and English test (125 from 195 minutes)
- If you opt to take the Science section (STEM students) add forty minutes. (per)
- Composite score not changing - still 36 is top score
- New test prep

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>

- Reduced the number of questions: 44 fewer
- Reduced the number of answer choices in math from 5 to 4
- Now offering both paper and computer testing

Test Optional.....is it really?

Yes, "test optional" generally means that a college will consider your application without requiring standardized test scores, so you can choose whether or not to submit your SAT or ACT results, and not submitting them will not negatively impact your application; however, it's important to note that some admissions officers may still consider test scores favorably if submitted, even at a "test optional" school.

- Ask the colleges you are considering
- Ask if this takes you out of any “merit” based money
- Ask what number they are looking for and the 50% score
- Ask the percentage of students who applied in 2024 with ACT/SAT

Opportunity Scholarship Students

- Mr. Keenan ordered test waivers for all juniors who need to take the ACT to meet the opportunity scholarship requirements. The student will be called down and given the waiver code.

ACT TEST DATES

APRIL 5,2025	FEBRUARY 28,2025	MARCH 16, 2025
JUNE 14, 2025	MAY 9, 2025	MAY 26, 2025
JULY 12, 2025	JUNE 6, 2025	JUNE 20, 2025

Balanced Schedule

Many colleges will say during your visit, “...what was offered to the student and what did they take?”

BALANCE / RIGOR / MEANINGFUL COURSE

- School Profile
- Transcript / Activities / Community Service
- Letters of Reference
- Test Scores AP / SAT / ACT