



Marian Catholic College Counseling News

December 2025

Junior Parent Night

Thursday, January 15th - 6:30 PM

in the Leadership Center

**Topics to be covered: 1) ACT test prep 2) Changes to ACT 3)
General questions about testing**

On Tuesday October 28th, the juniors took a practice ACT. Based on the student's performance on this practice ACT, Analyze Ed will provide each junior with an individualized report on what areas to focus on to prepare for the School Day ACT that juniors will take on Tuesday March 24th. Details about the report from Analyze Ed will be presented at this meeting. In addition, the counselors will talk about the recent changes to the ACT. To get information now about the changes, click [here](#).

Testing Information - ACT and SAT

Second semester of junior year is when students traditionally take the ACT and/or SAT for the first time.

The juniors will take an official ACT on paper on Tuesday March 24th. For future dates, students may choose between a paper or an online test. Juniors do not have to register for the March ACT. Registration will be taken care of when counselors visit their Theology class. If they choose to

retake the ACT later in June or July or in the 1st semester of senior year (dates are below on the right), they will register themselves at MyACT.org.

The SAT is now Digital! As of March 2024, there is no longer a paper and pencil test for the SAT - it may only be taken as a digital test. For more information about the Digital SAT, click [here](#). To register, go to the [College Board website](#).

As you and your junior discuss whether they will take the SAT, or if they will retake the ACT, or if they should do test prep, we suggest reading this blog post:

[Should You Take the SAT/ACT or Not?](#)

While the blog is from October 2021 when the impact of COVID on testing was still very new, the topics it covers are still ones to consider now in 2025, especially with the decision on whether or not to submit test scores. The writer states:

"I want parents to come away with the tools to make the 3 binary testing decisions on the road to college application:

1. *to prep for tests or not to prep*
2. *to test or not to test*
3. *to submit scores or not to submit"*

ACT / SAT Test Prep Opportunities

ACT Test Prep Class - An in-person ACT test prep class will be offered here at Marian in February. Details are being finalized and information will be distributed in January.

If you / your junior are considering ACT test prep for the April ACT and are not interested in the class that will be held at Marian, you should start looking for a class now. Test prep classes in advance of the March School Day ACT will begin in January.

Analyze Ed - As mentioned above, juniors will receive their log-in information to access their individualized test prep program.

Other Test Prep Possibilities

ACT / SAT Test Dates

SAT March 14

Registration Deadline Feb. 27

ACT Tuesday March 24 At Marian - School Day ACT

--Registration completed at Marian.

SAT May 2

Registration Deadline April 17

SAT June 6

Registration Deadline May 22

[Jeanius Prep](http://www.jeaniusprep.com) offers online classes for all ACT and SAT test dates. For their complete schedule, go to www.jeaniusprep.com

[Revolution Prep](http://www.revolutionprep.com) offers online classes for all test dates and is also offering a holiday gift. Revolution Prep has a team of professional tutors who have been teaching online for over a decade. They are offering a \$600 gift card through December 19th, 2025.

Visit www.revolutionprep.com for more information!

ACT offers FREE online test prep - on the ACT website, look for Free ACT Practice Tests and Resources.

SAT offers FREE online test prep - [Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org) (www.khanacademy.org).

Test Optional update

The number of colleges and universities that are test optional for the Class of 2026 is over 1,700. Who will be test optional for the Class of 2027 is still to be determined. In 2020 due to COVID, many colleges and universities decided to become test optional permanently. Others announced that they would be test optional through the Class of 2025 while they conducted a pilot study to look at the effect / impact of not requiring test scores for admission. Some colleges and universities have already announced that they will return to requiring test scores. Others may announce in the coming months that they will return to requiring a test score for students in the Class of 2027. Be sure to check with any college or university that your student is considering applying to to find out if they will continue to be test optional. There are over 75 colleges and universities that are Test-Free. This means that they WILL NOT consider test scores as part of the admission process.

An excellent source for information about test optional schools is Fair Test - www.fairtest.org. The website has a [directory](#) of test-optional, 4-year schools that is updated regularly. It is also a resource for information on a variety of topics on standard testing.

Even considering the number of schools that are test optional, we recommend that juniors have at least one test score on hand, either from the ACT or SAT. Test scores may be required for some majors

ACT June 13

Marian is a test center. The registration deadline is May 8

ACT July 11

Registration Deadline June 5

Fall of Senior year - 2026

SAT anticipated dates

- August 15th
- September 12th
- October 3rd
- November 7th

ACT confirmed dates

- September 19th
- October 17th

To register for either test and for more information about the tests, go to their websites.

ACT www.act.org

SAT www.collegeboard.org

College Counselors

Class of 2027

- Mr. Rodewald
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- Mr. O'Farrell
- dofarrell@marianchs.com
- Mr. O'Brien
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Marian's HS Code

141393

and scholarships. Another factor is that having a strong test score may also strengthen a student's application. This is one reason that we are offering the School Day ACT so that students will have a score available should they need it next year.

If a student applies to a school that is not test optional and does require a test score, scores from either the ACT or SAT may be submitted.

What to do 2nd semester to get ready for senior year

When we met with the students at the start of this year, we asked them to consider two questions - "*Why do I want to go to college?*" and "*What do I want to do in college?*" instead of focusing on "*Where do I want to go to college?*". The following are some of the activities that the college counselors will be doing with the juniors in second semester to assist them in getting ready for next year.

Selecting Classes for Senior Year

In second semester, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. O'Farrell, and Mr. Rodewald will meet with juniors to begin the process of selecting classes for senior year.

The counselors will meet individually with each junior to check that the student is on track to meet graduation requirements as well as admission requirements for college. Marian's graduation requirements are listed in the [curriculum guide](#).

College Counseling Conferences

In January, parents will receive information about requesting and scheduling dates for conferences. During second semester, juniors and their parents are encouraged to meet with a college counselor to discuss the college search and application process. Conferences will be scheduled beginning in late January / early February. These conferences provide an excellent opportunity for the student, parents, and college counselor to meet together and get "on the same page" as senior year approaches!