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This Is Not a Test...it's the Real Thing!

This is the moment our school has been preparing for all year: statewide testing on April 15th. Yes, that is the day when adults need to pay their income taxes, and Illinois high school students will sit down to take standardized tests for their respective grade levels. Here at Argo, you've seen teachers in shirts that were inspired by a song from an era of hip hop long ago, "2 Legit 2 Quit" by Hammer (sans the MC portion of his name). Why? The goal for each student is to see their score on whatever test improve by two points or more from the practice test that they took six months ago on October 15, 2025. So, if Johnny Junior rocked a 22 on the PreACT 11, a 24 or higher in April on the ACT proper would represent a very sound improvement that will set him up well for postsecondary plans, i.e. college admissions, scholarships, the placement test for the trade unions, to name a few.

Tips for doing well on the ACT include:

- Pacing is everything. The ACT gives you roughly 49 seconds per question on English, 60 seconds on Math, 52 seconds on Reading, and 52 seconds on Science. If you don't know an answer in 30–40 seconds, guess and move on.
- Answer every question. There is no penalty for wrong answers on the ACT. Never leave a bubble blank. If you're out of time, pick one letter (e.g., "C" or "F") and fill in the rest.
- Order of difficulty varies by section. Unlike the SAT, the ACT does not always put easy questions first. A hard question can appear early. Don't get discouraged—skip and return.
- Use the test booklet actively. Circle keywords, cross out wrong answers, and write small notes. The ACT questions are direct, so underlining helps you avoid misreading. 



ACT®

Awards Season at Argo

If the old cliché states that “April showers bring May flowers”, around Argo, April also brings some award ceremonies where we recognize student achievement, sometimes financially. The 29th of this month is the day when a gamut of fun and festivities will take place. From 8:00 until around 9:30 in Performing Art Center, the school will have its various academic departments announce their outstanding student winners from each of the four classes. Who excels in English? Which students are marvelous in math? Who is the cream of the crop in the eyes of counselors? Find this out by invitation only, and life hack here, if you are student winner, make sure you put the award you win in your future college applications and/or résumé.

But, if you are saying “Show me the money!”, the Counseling Department is hosting its annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony later that same night at 6:30 in the PAC. Every year, seniors can win scholarships from assorted local groups who generously donate their time and money to help Argonauts after graduation, where college costs don’t seem to be decreasing any time soon. Winners have been notified, but which specific awards they have won are behind Fort Knox level security until they are announced at the ceremony. It should be a great day and evening where our school will recognize excellence at all levels, as well as helping some select students at the collegiate level. **C**



Union Strong!

Argo's faculty is represented by the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 when the time comes for contract negotiations and other labor issues. But the union doesn't only represent its members in these matters, it also offers scholarships to the children and dependents of the rank and file. To this end, we are proud to announce that Argo senior Mia Gutierrez was recently announced as a winner of the Mary Wheeler Scholarship for 2026 courtesy of the WSTU Local 571. Mia's mother Barbara Gutierrez works at Bridgeview Elementary School teaching special education students in grades kindergarten through second. Mia will receive a handsome one-time check to apply towards her college expenses. She will attend Western Michigan University, where she intends to major in data science. As union members, we are all proud of Mia winning this award, she definitely met the criteria of academic excellence, participation in school activities, and community service. **C**



Many congrats to Mia on her milestone merit recognition.



In the Corner

Cue "End of the Road" by Boyz II Men because this issue's In the Corner profiles the final member of the department to get the third degree, Ms. Remiasz. She handles students with IEPs and 504 Plans whose last names run from A through L, so let's learn more about what she does besides counting credits and sitting in on annual reviews.

CC: What made you want to go into school counseling?

ZR: School counseling came into the picture for me back in high school when it was a result of an assessment on Career Cruising (a precursor to the Naviance platform we use now). I kind of forgot about it for a long time, but I always knew I wanted a career where I was able to help people, especially kids. When I was finishing my senior year of college, one of my professors gave me a list of potential careers with a background in psychology, and I made my way back to the idea of school counseling. I have loved it ever since!

CC: What are your goals for the school year as it draws to a close?

ZR: My work-related goals for the current school year are to spend as much time as possible with my students and to have as many of them on track for graduation as can be. My current personal goal is to find time to be active every single day, prioritizing my health and making sure to move my body.

CC: What do you like to do for fun in your free time?

ZR: In my free time, I spend a lot of time in the kitchen. I'm an avid home baker and I love to find new, healthy recipes. If I'm not in the kitchen, I'm usually spending time with my family, ideally outside, playing games or sports and enjoying quality time.



The rad Ms. Remiasz.

CC: What are some of your favorite TV shows and movies?

ZR: For television, *The Witcher* (before Liam Hemsworth came into the picture). Also, anything that constitutes "garbage TV" (*Secret Lives of Mormon Wives*, *Love is Blind*, *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*). My favorite movie ever is *Gladiator* and I love any movies (or books) that are historical or historical fiction.

CC: What music do you listen to while driving to and from work?

ZR: I usually let Spotify choose my music, but usually it's something alternative like the Killers, EDM/house music, and sometimes disco polo like my Polish friends. **C**