



Testing 101

A Parent Guide to Testing at MHS
September 2026



Which Exams are covered in this presentation?

- ACCESS
- ACT
- ALTA
- AP
- ASL-STAMP
- Extempore/3s
- HSK
- IB
- MCAs/MTASs
- PSAT/NMSQT
- PSAT10
- SAT
- STAMP

ACCESS



- For English Language Learners
- Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English
State-to-State for English Language Learners
- Applicable students automatically registered



College Admissions Tests



ACT – School Day Vs National



School Day ACT

- 11th Grade Only
- April 6th
- Link to register will go out via email in December
- MHS hosted – staff proctored
- Limited testing accommodations (no multi-day)
- Takes place during school day

National ACT

- Saturdays - Registration is open for all exams through July. Visit www.act.org to register.
- MHS hosts December, February, and April for 26-27 school year.
- Accommodations are requested at the time of registration- plan ahead!
- MHS is now a digital BYOD for Saturdays. Students cannot use an iPad. Only window or macbook laptop compatible.

SAT



- MHS does not offer a school-day SAT
- SAT takes place on Saturdays seven times a year
- MHS hosts the December, March, and May exam dates for the 2026-27 school year.
- Students register online at www.sat.org
 - At this time, registration is open for all **fall 2026** test dates. March, May and June registration coming soon!



Understanding the ACT & SAT: What You Need to Know

Sunday, September 27th – Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Google Meet joining info

<https://meet.google.com/ihp-vcsw-sxn>

This session will break down the key differences between the ACT and SAT, help you understand which test might be a better fit, and offer guidance on preparing for either exam. Perfect for students beginning to think about college admissions testing.



PSAT/NMSQT- October 14, 2026

- Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
- For 11th grade students
- Great practice exam for SAT
- Main entry point for National Merit consideration (only the top 1% of scores in state qualify)
- **Registration ends Sunday, Sept 27th at 11:59 PM.**



PSAT10: March 8, 2027

- The practice to the practice SAT
- Only for 10th grade
- Registration in January 2027

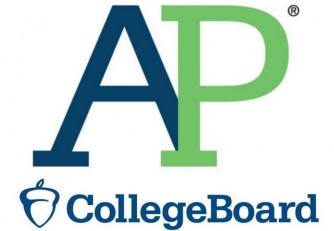


College Credit Exams



AP

- Potential college credit
- Potential weighted MHS grade (+1.0)
- For any grade
- The associated AP class is highly recommended (but not required) to register for the AP exam
 - 32 AP Exams Offered (2026-27)
- Registration is two steps (registration sending this week):
 - Reserve exam in AP Classroom (*most students do this in class*)
 - Pay in Total Registration





IB

- Potential college credit
- Potential weighted MHS grade (+1.0)
- For 11th and 12th grade students only
- The associated IB class is required
 - 27 IB Exams Offered (2026-27)
- Registration is one step (sent via email link on September 24th):
 - Pay in Total Registration





State-Mandated Exams



MCA/MTAS



- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment
 - April 8 (Tonka Online ONLY)
 - April 13 - April 15 (in class, schedule TBD)
 - April 19 (make-up)
- MHS is required to administer these exams by State of Minnesota
- Test information will be sent in the late Winter/early Spring via email
- Tests are important for the school district:
 - Identify areas to improve curriculum
 - Measure student progress around Minnesota Academic Standards
 - Hold schools accountable for meeting Minnesota Academic Standards



Language Exams

Language Exams

- Potential college credit
- Open to students in 10th - 12th grade
- February 9 - 12, 22 - 26 (may go longer in immersion classrooms)
 - STAMP – Popular languages (Spanish, Mandarin, ASL, etc.)
 - Extempore – Semi-popular languages, native languages (Vietnamese, Ojibwe, etc.)
 - ALTA – Less popular languages (Albanian, Danish, etc.)
 - HSK – Specific for Chinese students attempting to live/work in China post-secondary (demand dictated, but likely in late May).



STAMP



- A full 4-standard test: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking
- ASL - Expressive and Receptive
- Who Registers?
 - -All 10th grade students in Spanish or Chinese immersion automatically registered
 - -All ASL 4 Students automatically registered
 - -Choice to Register – Any heritage speakers from 10 – 12th grade (need not be in any language classes)
- Registration information sent via email in November

Extempore



- 3-Standard Test (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking) – each test is missing one
- Any 10 – 12th grade student can register via email link that is sent in November
- Languages that aren't available in STAMP's 4s will be given in Extempore (if possible)



ALTA

- 2-Standard Test (Listening, Speaking)
- Any 10 – 12th grade student can register via email link that is sent in November
- Languages that aren't available in STAMP's 4s or Extempore (if possible)

HSK



- A mandated Chinese government exam for students wishing to work/live in China.
- Work with Chinese immersion teachers for registration (typically in the late Winter)



Registration Deadlines

- **PSAT/NMSQT** – September 27, 2026
- **AP** – October 20th, 2026 (Full-year and Sem1 classes)
 - February 23rd for Sem2-only classes
- **IB** – October 20th, 2026
- **STAMP/ALTA/Extempore** – December 4th, 2026
- **ACT (District)** – January 8th, 2027
- **PSAT10** – January 11th, 2027
- **ACCESS** – Automatically Registered
- **ASL STAMP** – Automatically Registered
- **MCAs** – Automatically Registered
- **ACT (National)** – See website, www.act.org
- **SAT (National)** – See website, www.sat.org
- **HSK** – See Chinese Teacher



Test Dates

2026

- PSAT/NMSQT: October 14th, 2026

2027

- ACCESS: Feb 2 (Periods 5&6)
ACCESS: Feb 4 (Periods 3&4)
ACCESS: Feb 18 (Periods 1&2)
- ASL STAMP: February 9 - 12, 22 - 26, 2027
STAMP: February 9 - 12, 22 - 26, 2027
Extempore: February 9 - 12, 22 - 26, 2027
ALTA: February 9 - 12, 22 - 26, 2027
- PSAT10: March 8th, 2027

2027 (continued)

- ACT (District): April 6th, 2027
- MCAs: April 9th (Tonka Online)
MCAs: April 15th – 17th (Regular)
MCAs: April 21 (Make-up)
- IB: April 23 – May 18, 2027
- AP: May 3 – May 21, 2027
- HSK: May 20, 2027

Ongoing / National Dates

- ACT (National): See website. www.act.org
- SAT (National): See website. www.sat.org



Guide to Requesting Accommodations

- CollegeBoard: AP, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT10
- ACT: ACT, PreACT
- International Baccalaureate: IB
- [Guide to Requesting Accommodations](#)



Who to contact?

- ACCESS – Kristyn.roman@minnetonkaschools.org
- ACT (District), MCAs, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT10 tyler.Barthelemy@minnetonkaschools.org or emakate.brohman@minnetonkaschools.org
- ACT (National) – www.act.org
- ALTA/Extempore/STAMP – Language Teacher or tyler.Barthelemy@minnetonkaschools.org
- ASL STAMP – tyler.Barthelemy@minnetonkaschools.org
- AP/IB – laura.herbst@minnestonkaschools.org or tyler.Barthelemy@minnetonkaschools.org
- HSK – Your student's Chinese teacher
- SAT (National) – www.sat.org



Questions?