Sophomore Parent Night
Class of 2021

Presented by Ms. Heidi Graver & Keynote Speaker: Ms. Katie Rose,
Applerouth Tutoring Services

- ✓ Please pick up an Agenda packet & SAT/ACT flyer before we begin!

Counseling Dept. Staff

Zyer Beaty

A – Cas, AVID

Nsikan Ekpo

Cat - Harp

Heidi Graver

Harq - Mep

Counseling Dept. Staff

Melissa Freeman

Meq - Sal

Hella Peart

Sam - Z

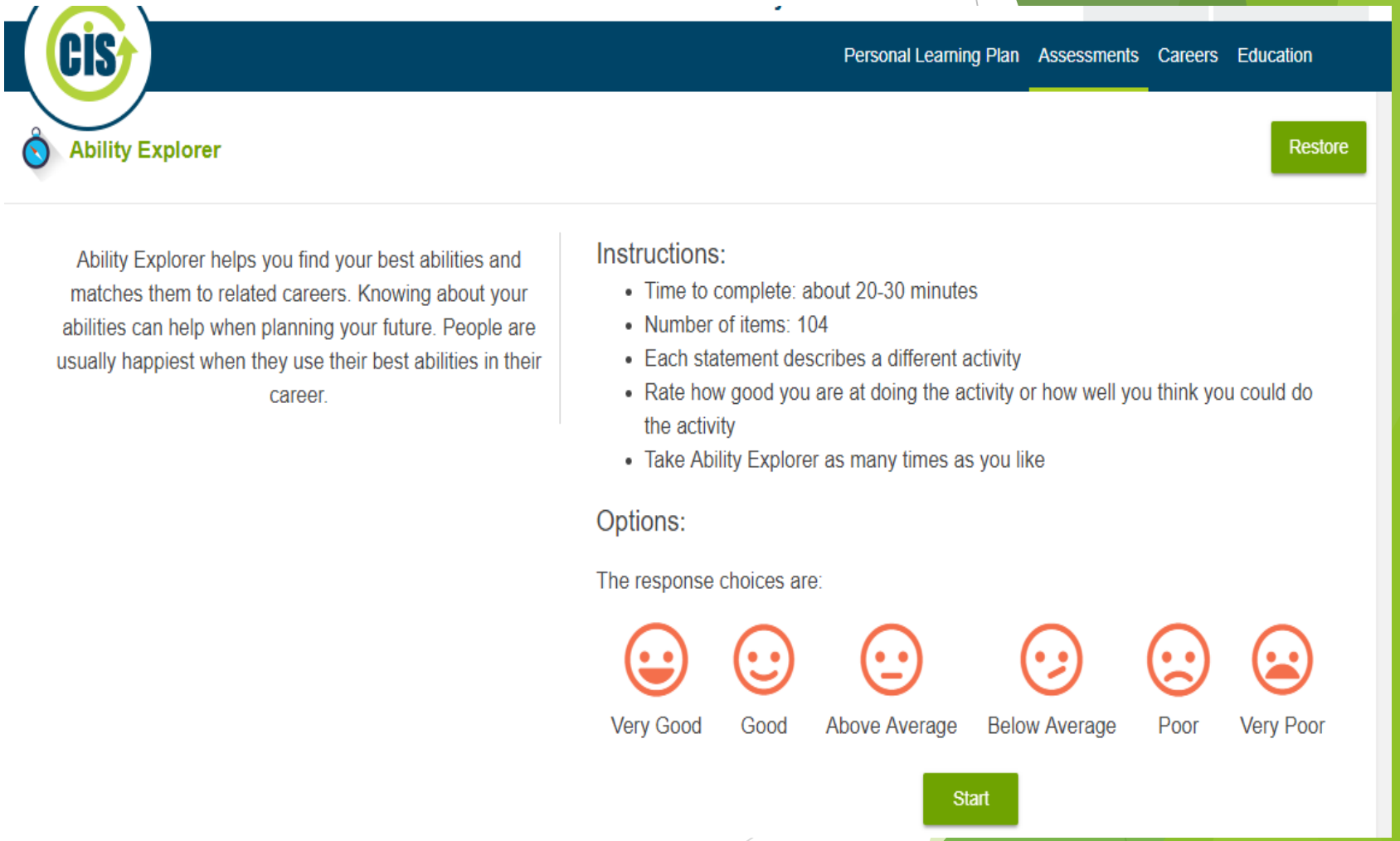
Anne Rigsbey

Grad Coach

10th Grade Guidance Lesson (delivered in History classes late March)

- GCIS Ability Explorer
- Gives students opportunities to explore their career options that match their abilities and interests

- Helps to promote post-secondary thinking and goal-setting; choosing high school courses



Ability Explorer : Results

Start Over | Save

Use Your Abilities to Explore Careers

You can use your abilities to explore careers. Ability Explorer measures 13 abilities. The assessment connects your top abilities to related careers. Connecting your abilities to careers is one way to find a career that is a good match for you. People are happier when they use their abilities.

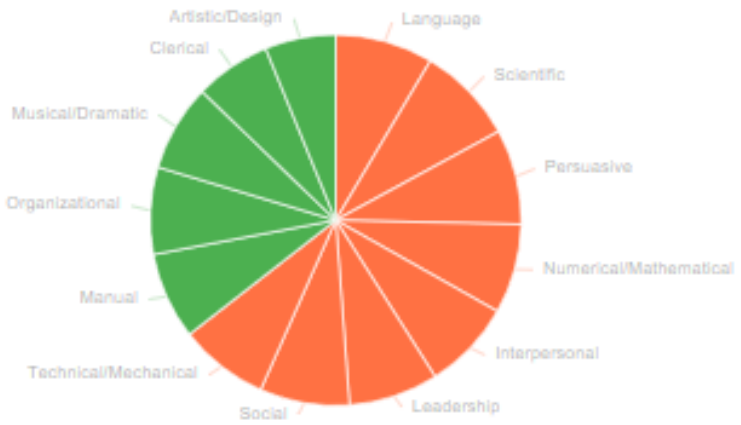
Your Ability Ratings

Your Best Match

Language & Scientific

High | Medium | Low

Tell me more about my score



What Your Ability Areas Mean

You can think of abilities as how well you do certain activities. Read the descriptions below to learn more about abilities.

36 high	Language	33 high	Leadership	32 medium	Organizational
36 high	Scientific	33 high	Social	32 medium	Musical/Dramatic

Planning for College - It's a great time to start! ☺

- In your packet…
- Freshmen & Sophomore Checklists
  - from College Board (www.collegeboard.org)
- Academic Portfolio
- College Prep Vocabulary
- College Prep Checklist for starting Junior year
  - from www.GaFutures.org

Graduation Requirements For Fulton County Schools

Subject Area	Required # of Credits
Language Arts	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Health Personal Fitness	.5 credit .5 credit
Pathway Courses	3 credits
Electives	4 credits
	23 total credits

Please join REMIND101 to receive important communications from our counseling office!

- Text: 81010
- In the message box: @chs2021a

PSAT, SAT/ACT and College Prep

Katie Rose, Communications Coordinator
Centennial High School
March 5, 2019

applerouth

Application numbers continue to rise

- **35% of freshmen applied to 7+ institutions in 2016.**
- **Yield rates are falling at most colleges.**
- **The average yield rate for US institutions was 32% in 2017.**

Takeaway: schools are more competitive because of the higher application numbers!

Many students use the Common and Coalition apps, which allow them to easily submit multiple applications.

NACAC State of College Admissions, 2017; US News and World Report, 2018

Applying early can pay off big for students

	Accepted Early	Accepted Regular
Brown ED	22%	7%
Cornell ED	26%	11%
Dartmouth ED	28%	8%
Johns Hopkins ED	30%	8%
Northwestern ED	27%	7%
Penn ED	22%	7%

Takeaway: if you're applying to a top school, **you need to be applying early!** And that affects your testing schedule.

The admissions process

Academic Index:

Quantitative components

- H.S. GPA (in the context of Schedule Strength and Academic Strength of School)
- SAT ACT
- SAT Subject Tests

HOW will they read your application?

Academic Index:

Qualitative components

- Admissions Essays
- Teacher/Counselor Recommendations
- Activities (Leadership, Depth)
- Demonstrated Interest

The packaging of the application—Is there a cohesive story?

Some schools may move away from wait lists

Increased Early Applications + **Enrollment Management** = **Higher Yield**

Waitlists are unpredictable for both students and schools—a student might commit to another school while waiting. Schools with strong early admissions programs don't rely on waitlists to fill classes. For example, in 2017, Dartmouth didn't offer admission to a single student on its waitlist of 1,345 applicants.
—Claire Lombardo, NPR

Takeaway: don't assume waitlisting is a viable option!

The Coalition App and the Common App

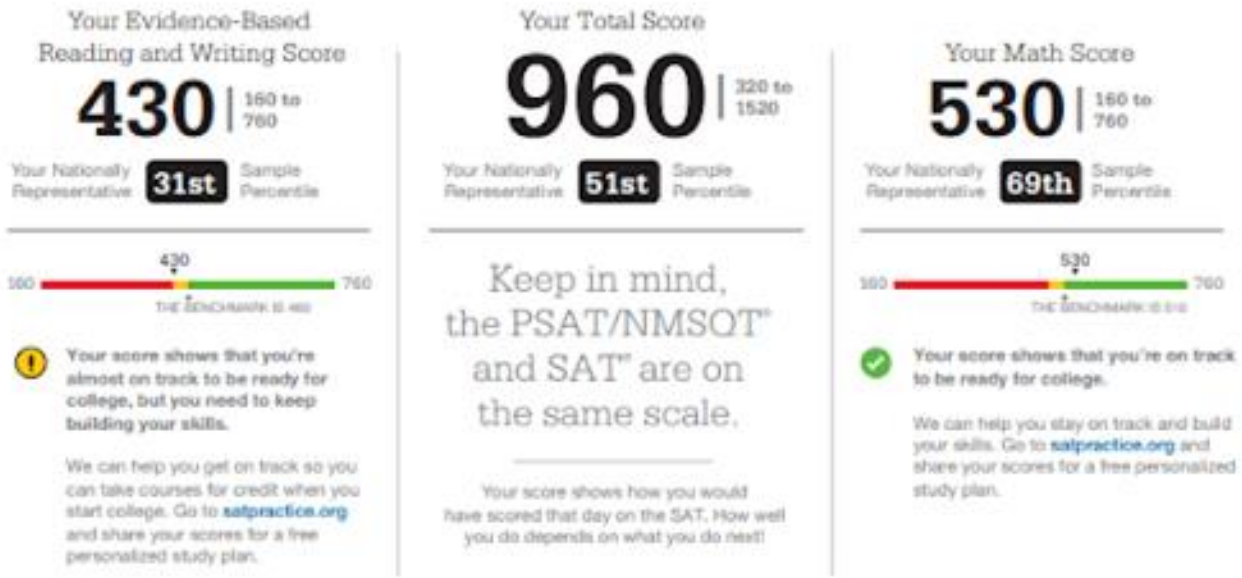
The Common and Coalition applications allow students to apply to multiple schools. Over **700** schools use the Common App, while over **90** schools use the Coalition App.

We will see more test-optional schools

Going test optional gets an immediate admissions bump *(more students apply)* **and increases average reported test scores** *(lower scores disappear)***.** More than 950 accredited schools in the United States do not require an SAT or ACT score for admission.
—The Washington Post, 2017

Takeaway: Test-optional schools are here to stay, but many students still choose to submit strong scores to them.

The PSAT/NMSQT Score Report



Takeaway: The PSAT is on the same scale as the SAT, and the resources available on the CollegeBoard's Khan Academy platform can help with both tests.

The PSAT and National Merit (NMSQT)

In 11th grade, students who take the PSAT are eligible for National Merit recognition, which can bring in scholarship money and an edge in college admissions.

Source: National Merit Annual Report, 2017

The National Merit Selection Process

Roughly **16,500** of the top PSAT-performing students are selected as NMSQT Semi-finalists.

Of those, around **15,500** complete the additional steps to be considered Finalists.

Finally, around **8,800** are selected as Merit Scholars and receive recognition and awards.

Although the Merit Scholars only make up 0.05% of students taking the NMSQT,

Finalists and even Semi-finalists can use their NMSQT status to earn scholarships from private organizations and universities.

Source: National Merit Annual Report, 2017

The PSAT/NMSQT Score Report: NMSC Selection Index

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.

To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2019 competition, NMSC will consider the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores of some 1.6 million test takers (usually high school juniors) who meet program entry requirements. For more information, please visit: www.nationalmerit.org

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirements" questions (see right-hand column) are inaccurate or there has been a change in plans that may affect program entry, write immediately to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Attn: Scholarship Administration
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Include your name and home address along with your high school name, address, and six-digit code number.

Your NMSC Selection Index

139

NMSC uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate your Selection Index score, double the sum of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

Eligibility Information

You meet entry requirements for the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.6 million program entrants.

If your Selection Index places you among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition, you will be notified next September when qualifying Selection Index scores will be made available.

Entry Requirements

(Information you provided on your answer sheet)

High school student:
YES

Year to complete high school and enroll full time in college:
2019

Total years to be spent in grades 9–12:
4

U.S. Citizenship:
YES

We don't yet know what the cutoff will be in Georgia for this year, let alone next year, but it is usually in the **218-224** range.

Should my student prep for the PSAT?

You should **only** invest in PSAT prep if your student is on the cusp of National Merit—that is, if they scored at the top of the class when they took the PSAT in 10th grade.

As we discussed, **National Merit can translate into significant scholarship money, but the PSAT does not factor into college admissions**. If your student is not National-Merit-bound, use the PSAT as another way to practice for the SAT and focus your prep on the SAT or ACT!

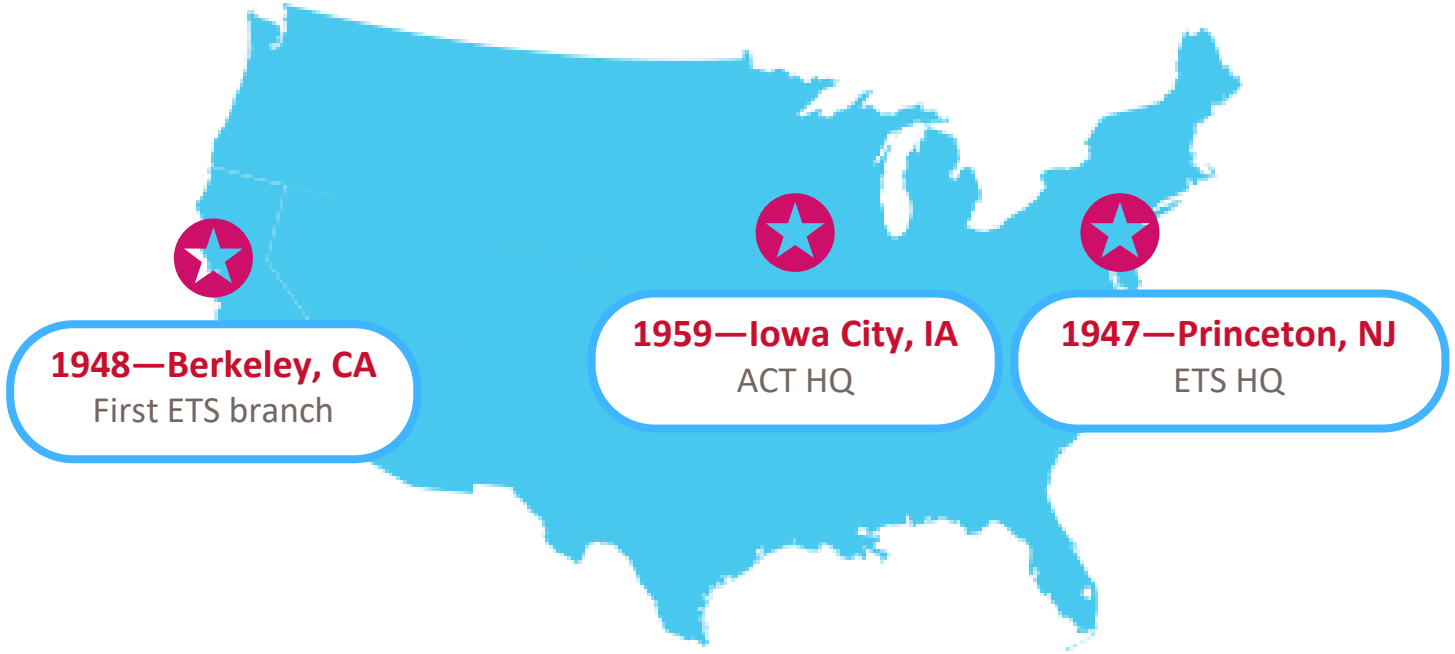
The SAT and the ACT

A brief history

SAT/ACT History

1926
Princeton professor Carl Brigham developed the first SAT, giving it to several thousand college applicants.
It grew in popularity until ETS (Educational Testing Services)
was established in 1947.

1959
University of Iowa professor Everett Franklin Lindquist created the ACT as a competing test. For decades, schools on the coasts preferred the SAT and the heartland preferred the ACT.



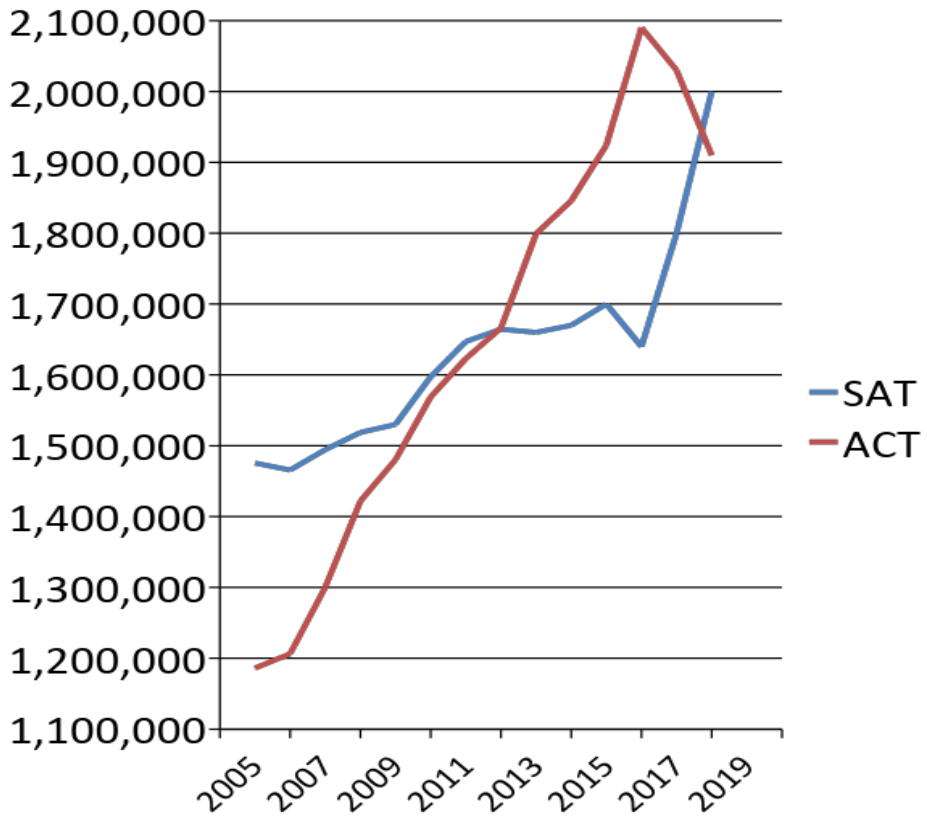
Sources: PBS Frontline, TIME

Today the SAT and ACT are universally accepted

Colleges will accept either test without prejudice.

For the first time in 7 years, the SAT leads the testing landscape

	SAT	ACT	Gap
2012	1,664,479	1,666,209	-1,730
2013	1,660,047	1,799,243	-139,196
2014	1,672,395	1,845,787	-173,392
2015	1,655,557	1,924,436	-224,436
2016	1,681,134	2,090,342	-409,208
2017	1,715,481	2,030,038	-314,557
2018	2,136,539	1,914,817	221,722



Sources: ACT, CollegeBoard, EducationWeek

The “Redesigned SAT”

In addition to pulling certain aspects from the ACT, the College Board’s goal was to incorporate aspects of both Advanced Placement courses and Common Core curriculum.

The College Board owns both the AP program and the SAT, so this was an easy task!

By aligning with Common Core standards, the College Board hoped to make the SAT more indicative of student achievement in the classroom.

Structurally, the two tests appear nearly identical

SAT

3:00
- Reading
- Writing & Language
- Math—No Calculator
- Math—Calculator

:50
- Essay (optional)

Testing time:

3:50

ACT

2:55
- English
- Math
- Reading
- Science

- Essay (optional)

Testing time:

3:35

The amount of time per question is a profound difference.

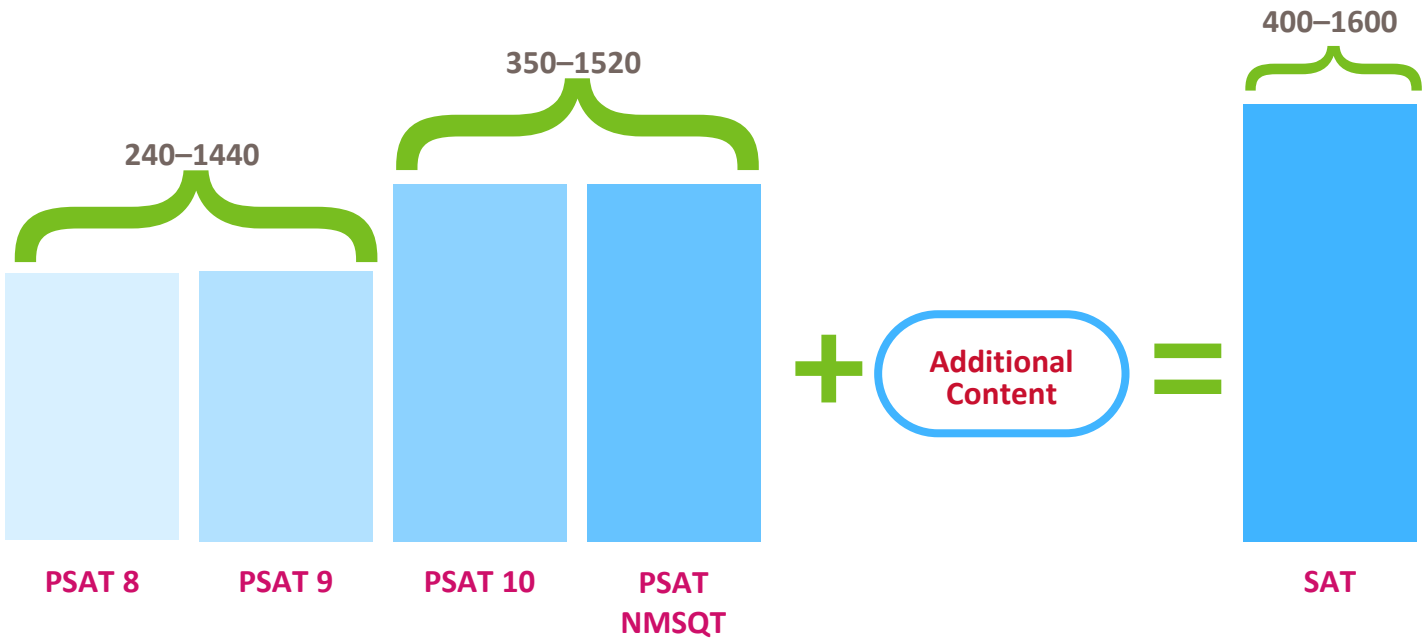
Section	ACT	SAT	% Difference
Writing	36.0	47.7	33%
Reading	52.5	75.0	43%
Math	60.0	84.2	40%
Science	52.5	N/A	N/A

The SAT has a more forgiving timing structure, which can benefit some students, but as we'll see, it's also a more complicated test.

The SAT

Digging deeper

Vertical Scaling of PSAT and SAT



As content gets harder, the possible point total increases

Digging Deeper: SAT Reading

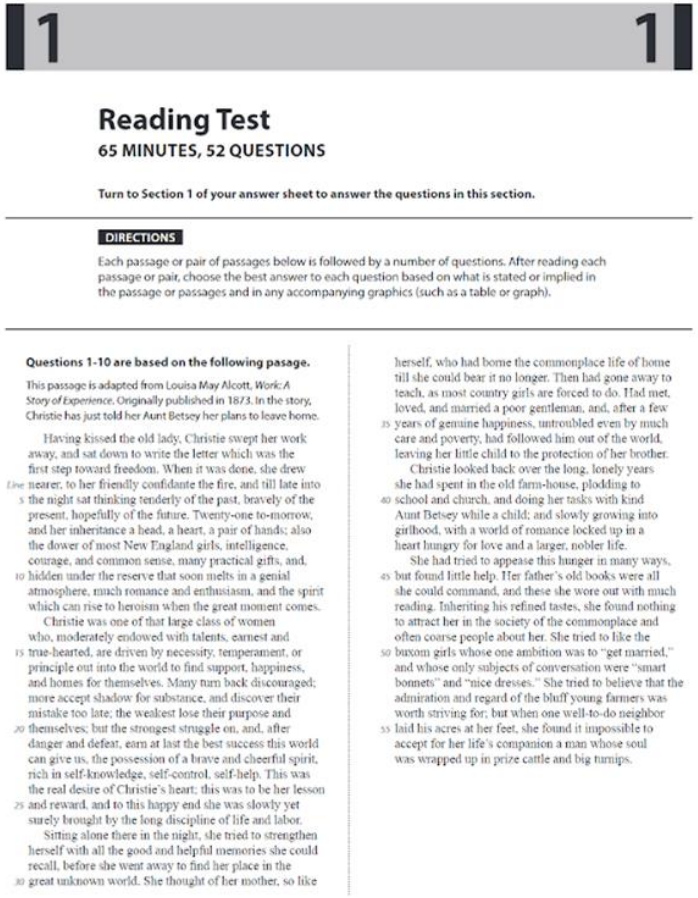
Time: 65 minutes

Questions: 52

Time per question: 75 seconds

The Reading section on the SAT is a marathon! It's the longest section and comes right at the beginning.

Be prepared for dense passages!



1 1

Reading Test

65 MINUTES, 52 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Louisa May Alcott, *Work: A Story of Experience*. Originally published in 1873. In the story, Christie has just told her Aunt Betsey her plans to leave home.

Having kissed the old lady, Christie swept her work away, and sat down to write the letter which was the first step toward freedom. When it was done, she drew
Line nearer, to her friendly confidante the fire, and till late into
5 the night sat thinking tenderly of the past, bravely of the present, hopefully of the future. Twenty-one to-morrow, and her inheritance a head, a heart, a pair of hands; also the dower of most New England girls, intelligence, courage, and common sense, many practical gifts, and,
10 hidden under the reserve that soon melts in a genial atmosphere, much romance and enthusiasm, and the spirit which can rise to heroism when the great moment comes.

Christie was one of that large class of women who, moderately endowed with talents, earnest and
15 true-hearted, are driven by necessity, temperament, or principle out into the world to find support, happiness, and homes for themselves. Many turn back discouraged; more accept shadow for substance, and discover their mistake too late; the weakest lose their purpose and
20 themselves; but the strongest struggle on, and, after danger and defeat, earn at last the best success this world can give us, the possession of a brave and cheerful spirit, rich in self-knowledge, self-control, self-help. This was the real desire of Christie's heart; this was to be her lesson
25 and reward, and to this happy end she was slowly yet surely brought by the long discipline of life and labor.

Sitting alone there in the night, she tried to strengthen herself with all the good and helpful memories she could recall, before she went away to find her place in the
30 great unknown world. She thought of her mother, so like herself, who had borne the commonplace life of home till she could bear it no longer. Then had gone away to teach, as most country girls are forced to do. Had met, loved, and married a poor gentleman, and, after a few
35 years of genuine happiness, untroubled even by much care and poverty, had followed him out of the world, leaving her little child to the protection of her brother.

Christie looked back over the long, lonely years she had spent in the old farm-house, plodding to
40 school and church, and doing her tasks with kind Aunt Betsey while a child; and slowly growing into girlhood, with a world of romance locked up in a heart hungry for love and a larger, nobler life.

She had tried to appease this hunger in many ways,
45 but found little help. Her father's old books were all she could command, and these she wore out with much reading. Inheriting his refined tastes, she found nothing to attract her in the society of the commonplace and often coarse people about her. She tried to like the
50 buxom girls whose one ambition was to "get married," and whose only subjects of conversation were "smart bonnets" and "nice dresses." She tried to believe that the admiration and regard of the bluff young farmers was worth striving for; but when one well-to-do neighbor
55 laid his acres at her feet, she found it impossible to accept for her life's companion a man whose soul was wrapped up in prize cattle and big turnips.

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the SAT, 2nd Ed.

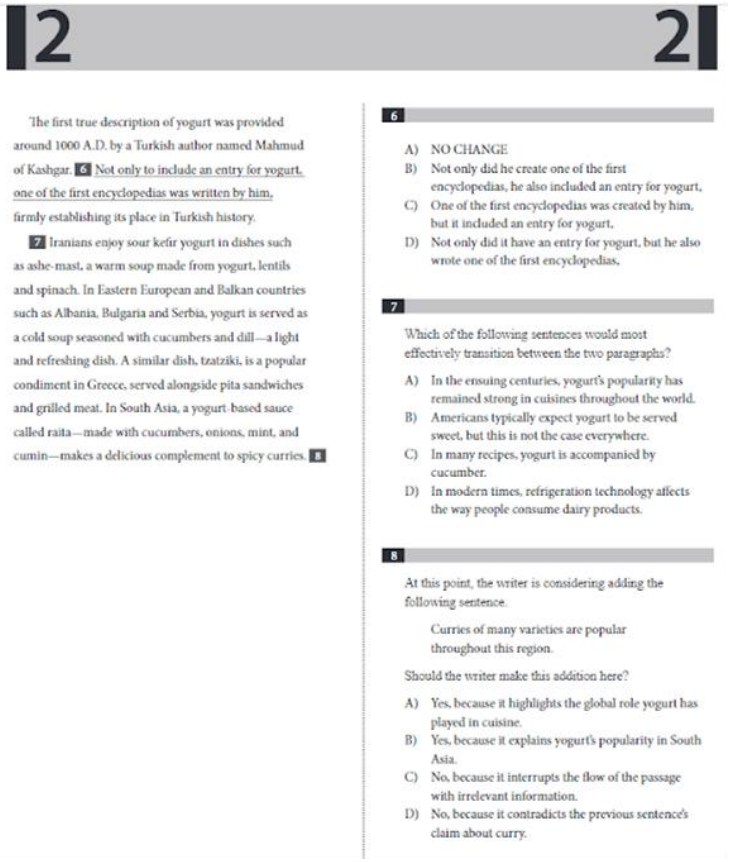
Digging Deeper: SAT Writing and Language

Time: 35 minutes

Questions: 44

Time per question: 48 seconds

The Writing and Language test features two types of questions: **Grammar and Rhetorical Skills**



2 2

The first true description of yogurt was provided around 1000 A.D. by a Turkish author named Mahmud of Kashgar. 6 Not only to include an entry for yogurt, one of the first encyclopedias was written by him, firmly establishing its place in Turkish history.

7 Iranians enjoy sour kefir yogurt in dishes such as ashe-mast, a warm soup made from yogurt, lentils and spinach. In Eastern European and Balkan countries such as Albania, Bulgaria and Serbia, yogurt is served as a cold soup seasoned with cucumbers and dill—a light and refreshing dish. A similar dish, tzatziki, is a popular condiment in Greece, served alongside pita sandwiches and grilled meat. In South Asia, a yogurt-based sauce called raita—made with cucumbers, onions, mint, and cumin—makes a delicious complement to spicy curries. 8

6

A) NO CHANGE
B) Not only did he create one of the first encyclopedias, he also included an entry for yogurt,
C) One of the first encyclopedias was created by him, but it included an entry for yogurt,
D) Not only did it have an entry for yogurt, but he also wrote one of the first encyclopedias,

7

Which of the following sentences would most effectively transition between the two paragraphs?

A) In the ensuing centuries, yogurt's popularity has remained strong in cuisines throughout the world.
B) Americans typically expect yogurt to be served sweet, but this is not the case everywhere.
C) In many recipes, yogurt is accompanied by cucumber.
D) In modern times, refrigeration technology affects the way people consume dairy products.

8

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Curries of many varieties are popular throughout this region.

Should the writer make this addition here?

A) Yes, because it highlights the global role yogurt has played in cuisine.
B) Yes, because it explains yogurt's popularity in South Asia.
C) No, because it interrupts the flow of the passage with irrelevant information.
D) No, because it contradicts the previous sentence's claim about curry.

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the SAT, 2nd Ed.

Digging Deeper: SAT Math (No Calculator)

Time: 25 minutes

Questions: 20

Time per question: 75 seconds

Formulas given: Yes

The No-Calculator section is full of functions and algebra! Students will need to be comfortable manipulating algebraic expressions.

1

Which of the following statements is true about the equation $y = (x - 3)^2$?

A) y is always less than 3.

B) y is always greater than 3.

C) y is always greater than -2.

D) y is always greater than x.

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the SAT, 2nd Ed.

Digging Deeper: SAT Math (Calculator)

Time: 55 minutes

Questions: 38

Time per question: 86 seconds

Formulas given: Yes

This section has a variety of math concepts, including modeling relationships algebraically, as seen here.

3

Americans eat an average of 1,500 hamburgers every second. If 45% of all hamburgers are eaten in the Southeast of the United States, which of the following equations represents the total number of hamburgers x Americans in the Southeast eat in m minutes?

A) $x = \frac{(0.45)60m}{1{,}500}$

B) $x = \frac{(0.45)1{,}500m}{60}$

C) $x = (0.45)1{,}500(60m)$

D) $x = (0.45)1{,}500m + 60$

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the SAT, 2nd Ed.

Digging Deeper: SAT Math Content Areas

The College Board groups the SAT Math content areas into three main categories:

1

Heart of Algebra

solving functions, linear equations and inequalities; graphing linear functions, equations and inequalities; solving systems of linear equations and inequalities; modeling linear relationships; linear word problems

2

Passport to Advanced Math

quadratic, radical and exponential equations and word problems; polynomials; factoring; non-linear functions and graphs; modeling exponential relationships

3

Problem Solving and Data Analysis

ratios, proportions and percents; unit conversion; tables, scatterplots, and graphs; linear and exponential growth and decay; inferring from data; center, spread and share of data sets; other introductory statistics concepts

Digging Deeper: SAT Math Content Areas

In addition to those three big areas, the

SAT features a few questions each on:

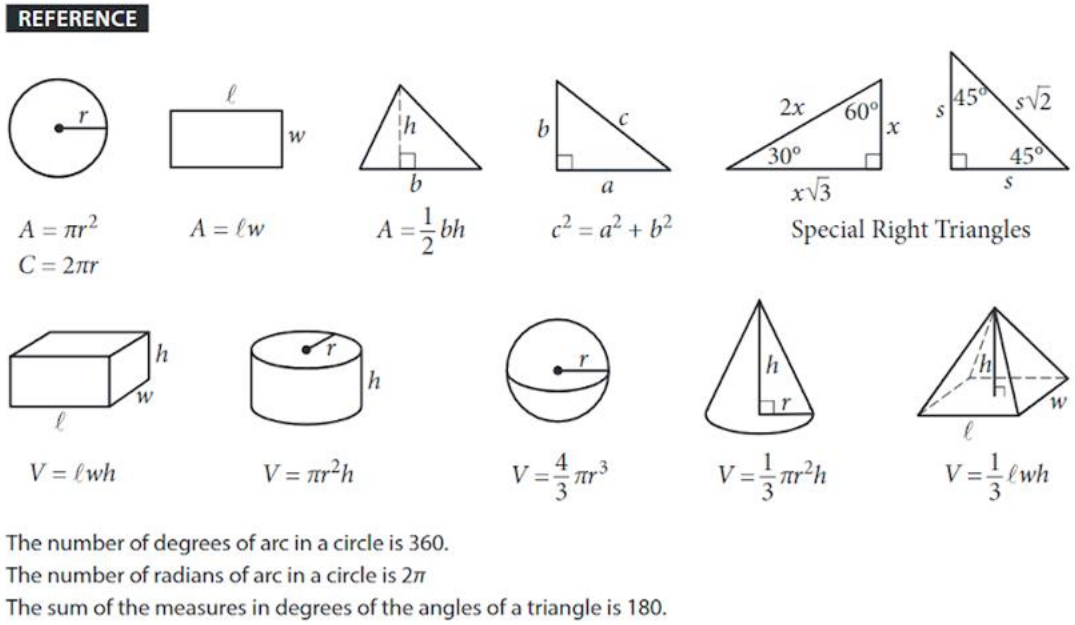
Geometry

area, volume, perimeter, angles, polygons. Most of these are in word problem format.

Trigonometry

right triangles, SOH-CAH-TOA

You'll get a reference guide for formulas!



Digging Deeper: SAT Math Problems

Being able to solve math on the SAT is often subordinate to being able to **generate an equation or interpret a constant or variable**.

Questions, like this one, test students' "math fluency," rather than their ability to get the right sum or product.

12

x	$f(x)$
-5	0
-1	36
0	0
1	6
2	0

The function f is defined by a polynomial. Some values of x and $f(x)$ are shown in the table above. Which of the following could define f?

A) $(x-5)(x+2)$

B) $(x+5)^2(x-2)^3$

C) $x^2(x+5)(x-2)^2$

D) $x(x+5)(x-2)$

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the SAT, 2nd Ed.

Digging Deeper: SAT Essay

The SAT essay is optional, but some competitive schools—like UCLA—require it, while others—like Stanford—recommend it.

To take the essay, you have to specify that you want the test with the essay **when you first register** for the test.

Don't be fooled:

"Recommended" means **"you need to take it!"**

Digging Deeper: SAT Essay

If the SAT essay seems familiar, that's because it is! College Board has modified free response questions from its AP Language and AP Literature exams for the SAT Essay.

As you read the passage below, consider how Stewart Topor uses

- evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
- reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
- stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.

Adapted from Stewart Topor, "Stop buying into the 'busyness' narrative, and start using the time you have."

1 We've all heard the news: Americans are busier than ever, perhaps the busiest people in human history. We're over-scheduled, over-booked and overworked, spending every waking hour rushing from appointment to appointment, rarely getting a moment's peace or a full night's sleep. Ask a friend how they're doing lately, and the typical answer is: "Busy." Or occasionally, "Slammed." Sometimes, "Everything's crazy over here."

Students are given a passage and asked to write an analysis of how the author makes his or her argument. It's not about whether you agree with the author or not—it's about recognizing rhetorical techniques.

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the SAT, 2nd Ed.

Digging Deeper: SAT Essay Scores

The SAT Essay is scored by two graders. Each grader gives the essay a score of 1-4 in three different areas:

Reading

This score measures how well the essay explains the author's argument—did the student understand what he/she read?

Analysis

This score measures how well the essay analyzes the author's technique, identifying specific rhetorical strategies.

Writing

This score measures how well the essay was written, according to formal conventions of written English.

The two graders' scores are added together, so every essay has three scores, each from 2-8.

The ACT

Digging deeper

Digging Deeper: ACT English

Time: 45 minutes

Questions: 75

Time per question: 36 seconds

Just like the SAT Writing and Language test, the ACT English test features two types of questions: **Grammar and Rhetorical Skills**

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the ACT, 4th Ed.

1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

Alternate Histories, Parallel Worlds

Joanna Russ was an American author and feminist, whose writings received some of the highest awards in the field. Upon her passing in 2011, Having won the hearts and minds of countless readers, Russ was deeply mourned by the science fiction community she helped shape. But she was not always regarded with such high acclaim.

Raised in New York City in the thirties and forties, Russ grew up in a time when being a female writer was still quite unusual. Despite this obstacle, she pursued her passion with both imagination and determination. As a child and teenager, many notebooks had been filled with handwritten stories and poems. Later, she studied at Cornell University, where she learned from the famous Russian novelist Vladimir Nabokov. She went on to earn an MFA in drama from Yale. In her studies, both personal and academic, she never ceased to maintain a connection to her humble beginnings.

[1] It was not until the late 1960s that her writing attracted notice from the public. [2] In science fiction, her

1. A. NO CHANGE
   B. 2011, having
   C. 2011. She
   D. 2011; having

2. F. NO CHANGE
   G. Her family raising her
   H. Being raised
   J. Having been raised

3. A. NO CHANGE
   B. she filled many notebooks
   C. she fills many notebooks
   D. many notebooks are filled

4. Given that all the choices are true, which one best summarizes this paragraph's description of how Russ "pursued her passion with both imagination and determination"?
   F. NO CHANGE
   G. encounter innumerable barriers to success in science fiction.
   H. explore new creative paths and persist through challenges.
   J. surprise her many acquaintances.

Digging Deeper: ACT Math

Time: 60 minutes

Questions: 60

Time per question: 60 seconds

Formulas provided? No

Calculators allowed? Yes

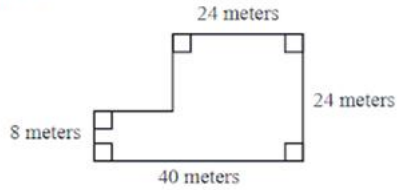
The ACT Math section is a grab-bag full of **varied math concepts**, ranging from arithmetic to trigonometry.

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the ACT, 4th Ed.

40. At Westmore High School, if a student is not more than 5 feet tall, that student cannot participate in the annual three-legged race. If Emily participated in the three-legged race at Westmore High School, then which of the following conclusions can be logically reached?

F. Emily is at least 6 feet tall.
G. Emily is more than 5 feet tall.
H. Emily is exactly 5 feet tall.
J. Emily is less than 5 feet tall.
K. Emily is at most 4 feet tall.

41. What is the area, in square meters, of the figure shown below?



A. 96
B. 128
C. 704
D. 720
E. 960

42. For the inequality $8(x+3) > 2(x-3)$, which of the following is NOT a possible value for x ?

F. -5
G. -3
H. -1
J. 3
K. 5

Digging Deeper: ACT vs. SAT Math content areas*

	ACT	SAT
Algebra	46%	62%
Geometry	23%	6%
Arithmetic/ Data Analysis	24%	30%
Trigonometry	7%	2%

As you can see, the math content is much more evenly distributed on the ACT than it is on the SAT, which relies heavily on Algebra.

**Using SAT categories, which are slightly different from ACT math categories*

Digging Deeper: ACT Reading

Time: 35 minutes

Questions: 40

Time per question: 52.5 seconds

The ACT Reading test is a sprint through 4 passages and 40 questions!

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the ACT, 4th Ed.

3 3

READING TEST

35 Minutes—40 Questions

DIRECTIONS: There are four passages in this test. Each passage is followed by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to the question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

Passage I

PROSE FICTION

A poet once wrote something about April being the cruellest month. This is untrue, of course, but as the poet in question had never been to North Carolina in the dead of August, we can forgive him. There is an atmosphere that hangs heavy in August—it's hard to describe, but imagine the stench of decay overlaid with the sickly-sweet scent of jasmine and honeysuckle. The bees are moving so slowly, they're in danger of dropping out of the air, and it's too hot to work and too hot to sleep and too hot to do anything other than sulk. August is the summer's last gasp, a sweltering, suffocating temper tantrum where the hazy sun burns too brightly in protest against a sky darkening with afternoon stormclouds, where the leaves have turned to a fleshy olive-green because even they've given up. There is a hum in the air in August, and it might just be the cicadas in the trees, but for all intents and purposes, it sounds like a funeral march.

And it was in the midst of that sickening stomachache of a month that I came home.

Well, perhaps "came home" is a bit of an overstatement, as I was merely driving through the town I'd grown up in on my way to a conference in the next state. I hadn't been back to the tiny town in years, not since my graduation. There had never been a compelling reason to return; my friends had shot out of town like cannonballs as soon as we'd thrown our caps. My parents didn't even live there anymore; they'd moved to Raleigh when my father's small pharmacy folded.

While I was loading my stuffed suitcases into the trunk of my old sedan, I rehearsed the entire scene in my mind. I had expected to feel nostalgic, to be moved by the sight of it badly needed a new coat of paint. Driving past the gravel lot, the only emotion I felt was annoyance at the construction trucks blocking one of the road's two lanes, forcing the cars into an ant's march in the heavy air. The entire experience was unsettling: I could clearly remember the long days I spent running wild through the sleepy downtown, but it didn't feel like the same place. I knew every line and shade of every tree in the town square, but it was as if the child who played under them was someone else, as if I'd watched a movie about a little girl who grew up in a little town and had little adventures. Suddenly, I felt as if I couldn't leave quickly enough.

The grocery store, which had stood in the same building for sixty years, was boarded up. A sign in the front directed shoppers to its new location closer to the highway and advertised a new multi-use development opening next year.

I didn't even slow down.

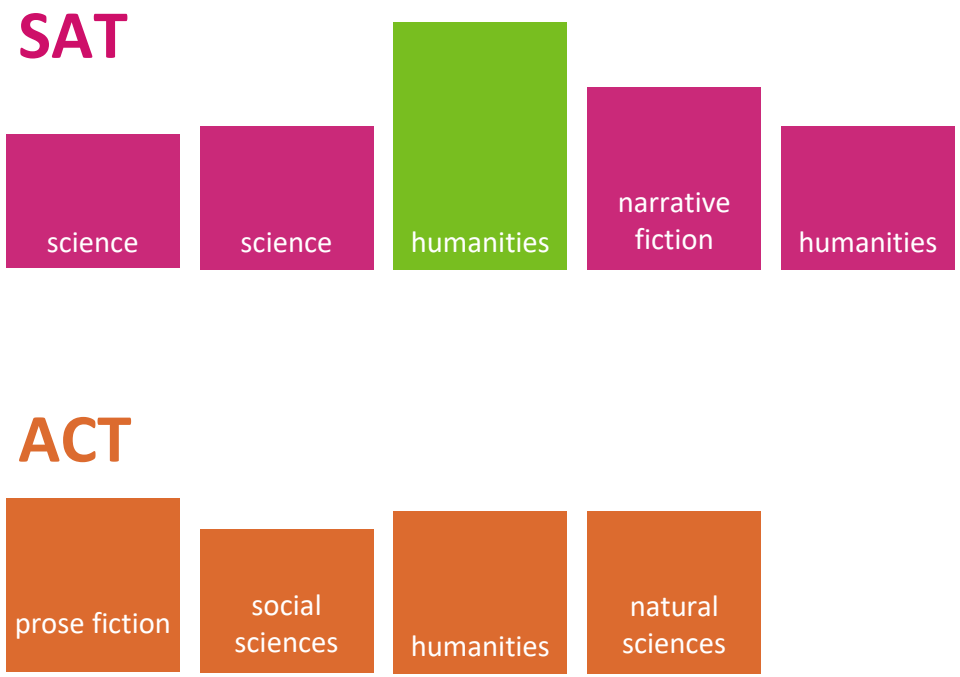
As I pulled into a brand-new gas station on the far side of town, I breathed a sigh of relief for the comforting unfamiliarity of it. I stepped inside, the frigid air conditioning a welcome contrast to the steamy outdoors. The middle-aged woman behind the cash register nodded at me in silent acknowledgment. *An out-of-towner*, her face said.

Grabbing a bag of salt and vinegar potato chips and a bottle of some kind of soda - I'm not sure I even read the label, to be perfectly honest - I laid them on the counter and pulled out my wallet.

The woman rang up my purchases slowly. "You headed somewhere exciting?"

"A conference in Nashville," I answered. "I just thought I'd drive through - I grew up here, you know."

Digging Deeper: SAT vs ACT Reading



Although the ACT forces students to go faster, the difficulty level is more consistent. Students should be prepared for the spikes in difficulty on the SAT.

Digging Deeper: ACT Science

Time: 35 minutes

Questions: 40

Time per question: 52.5 seconds

The ACT's Science Test is unlike anything on the SAT, which has some science mixed into the Reading, but no dedicated Science section. Students must move quickly through complicated passages full of graphs and charts.

Questions 1–6 relate to the following passage.

Cyanobacteria are a group of aquatic bacteria that capture light from the sun and convert it into chemical energy that can be used as food. This process is summarized by the following equation:

$$6CO_2 + 6H_2O \longrightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$$

Table 1 lists frequency ranges for visible light and the color commonly associated with each range.

Table 1

Color	Frequency (THz)
Red	405 – 480
Orange	480 – 510
Yellow	510 – 530
Green	530 – 600
Cyan	600 – 620
Blue	620 – 680
Violet	680 – 790

Bacteriochlorophylls are pigments that capture light energy. Figure 1 shows the relative absorption of light by bacteriochlorophyll *a* (*BChl a*), bacteriochlorophyll *b* (*BChl b*), and bacteriochlorophyll *c* (*BChl c*) across the light frequency from 0 THz to 1000 THz.

Figure 2 shows two different species of cyanobacteria and the combined relative absorption of their *BChl a*, *BChl b*, and *BChl c* pigments across various light frequencies.

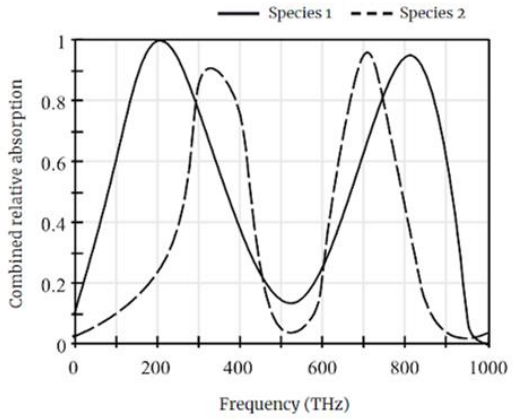


Figure 2

Source: Applerouth's Guide to the ACT, 4th Ed.

Digging Deeper: ACT Essay

Just like the SAT Essay, the ACT essay is *technically* optional.

The process of registering to take the ACT with the Essay is the same as it is for SAT—**indicate your choice when you first register**.

And just like the SAT Essay,

"Recommended" means **"unofficially required!"**

Digging Deeper: ACT Essay

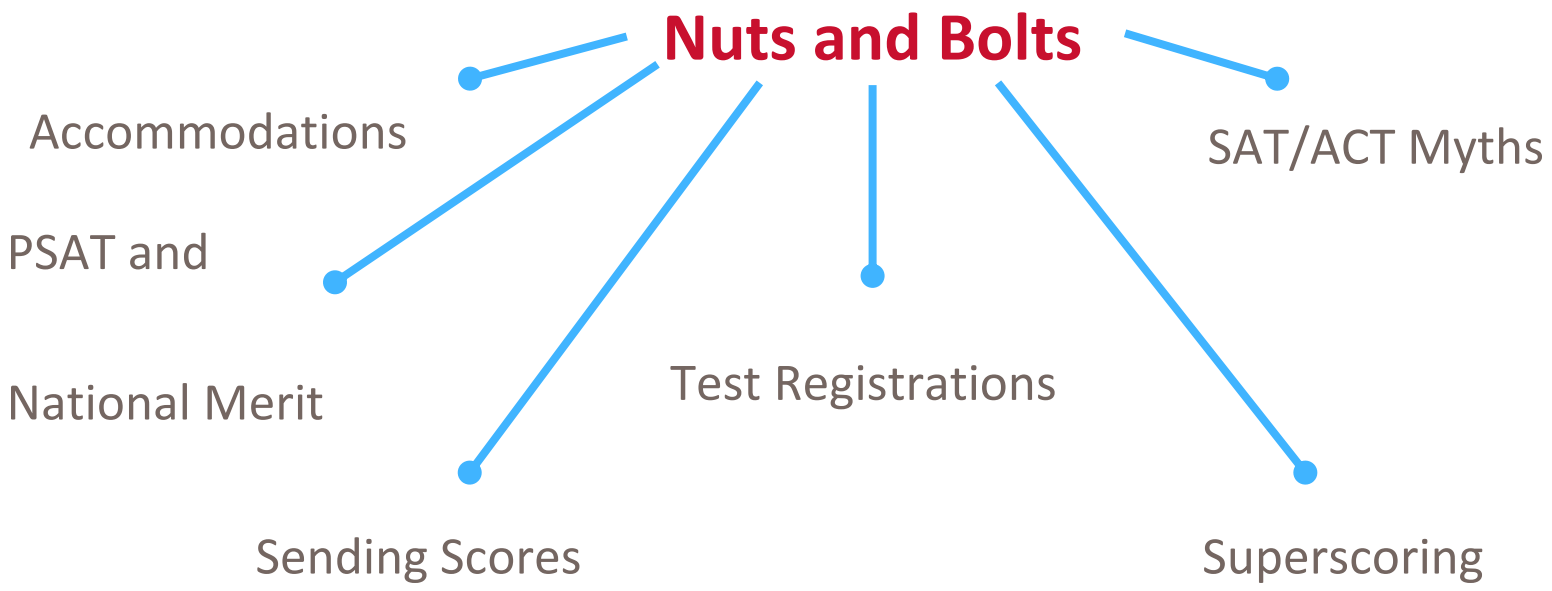
The ACT Essay asks students to read three perspectives on an issue and write their own argument, incorporating each perspective.

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about arts in education.

Perspective 1	Perspective 2	Perspective 3
Arts make wonderful hobbies and should be encouraged as extra-curricular activities that occur outside of regular school hours.	Schools must provide a full, well-rounded education, which should include exposure to the arts.	Schools exist to give students the necessary skills to get a job. Arts can be fun, but they distract from the main purpose of school.

Student Essay

How does all of this work?



Myth: there are easy and hard SAT/ACT dates

The SAT and ACT are standardized, which means that tests vary only slightly in difficulty from month to month—there are no historically “easy” test dates! It’s best to take the test whenever you have the most time and energy to prepare for it.

Make sure you’ve had Algebra II!

Source: https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/sat/data/archived

How to register for the SAT and ACT

To register for the SAT, log on to http://www.collegeboard.org and click "**Register for the SAT**." You will have to create a CollegeBoard account if you do not already have one.

To register for the ACT, log on to http://www.act.org and click "**Register Now for the ACT**." You will have to create an ACT account if you do not already have one.

Takeaway:

Register early!

The earlier you register, the likelier it is that you'll get to take the test at your own school!

How to secure accommodations

If your student needs accommodations for either the SAT or ACT, you must work with your student's school guidance counselor or disabilities coordinator to submit the correct paperwork.

- If your student plans to take the **SAT** multiple times with accommodations, you only have to go through the process once—the **accommodations follow your student** through any SAT, AP exam or PSAT.
- However, you have to **re-apply for accommodations for every ACT** administration your student plans to sit for. Be aware that it can take some time to process, and don't leave registration until the last minute!

Colleges cannot see when a student has taken a test with accommodations—**it's the law!**

Takeaway: if your student has a 504 plan or an IEP, make sure to pursue accommodations when they are SAT/ACT ready.

Superscoring

Superscoring allows students to combine top section scores from different test dates to form a **new composite score**, the only score to be used in the admissions process.

Test Date	Verbal	Math	Composite
March	630	670	1300
May	610	630	1240
June	660	650	1310
Superscore	660	670	1330

Takeaway: Plan to take whichever test you choose multiple times! We recommend **planning** for 3 test dates.

Planning: Allow Enough Time to Prep

Plan on taking the test 2-3 times. This is a process, not a one-shot deal.

TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, Puerto Rico, and Canada

2017 | 2018

The ACT

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINES		
	Regular Deadline	Late Fee Required**	Photo Upload Deadline
September 9, 2017	**August 4**	August 5-18	September 1
October 28, 2017	**September 22**	Sept. 23-Oct. 6	October 20
December 9, 2017	**November 3**	November 4-17	December 1
February 10, 2018*	**January 12**	January 13-19	February 2
April 14, 2018	**March 9**	March 10-23	April 6
June 9, 2018*	**May 4**	May 5-18	June 1
July 14, 2018*	**June 15**	June 16-22	July 6

Cram jobs almost never work.

It's smart to start early!

Making a Testing Schedule

We recommend students plan for 3 test dates of the same test. You can test as early as Fall of Junior year and as late as Fall of Senior year. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Work backwards from your application deadlines! If they are early admissions, make sure testing is done by summer after junior year.
- Consider extracurriculars and family commitments.
- Do a baseline practice test to figure out where you are starting.

Which Test Should I Try First?

ACT® CollegeBoard SAT connect to college success™

Try a practice of both! Once you have those scores:

Prep to your strength.

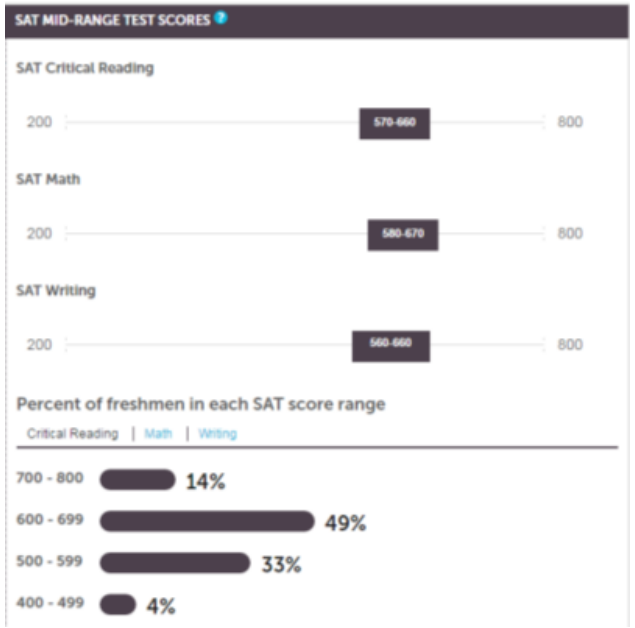
If they're the same:

Prep to your preference.

If prep is not yielding results, switch to the other test. If you have to switch, remember that about 75% of the content transfers.

Set realistic goals: Find score ranges online

Once you choose a test, use the College Board site or your Applerouth account to see how your practice scores compare to other applicants

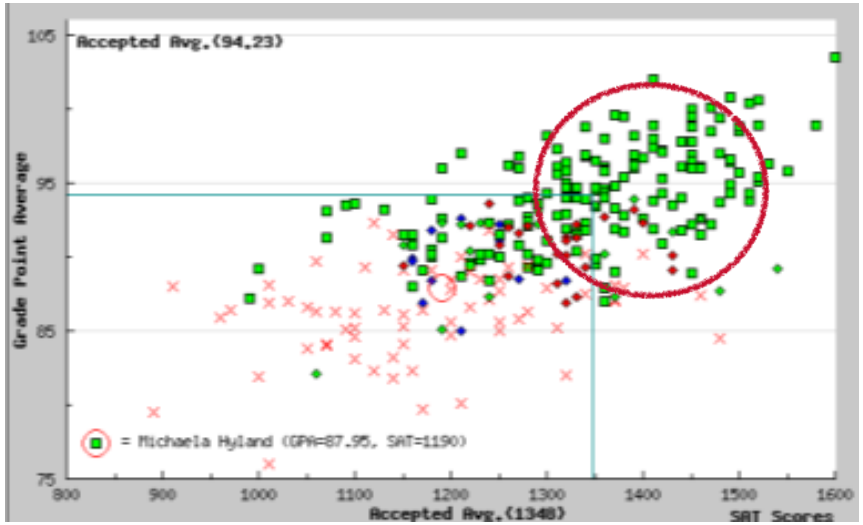


Remember that the bottom quartile is predominately "hooked" applicants (i.e., athletes), not straight academic admits. The median score for unhooked applicants is closer to the right side of the middle 50% range.

Naviance and Cappex Scattergrams

These scattergrams let you see the meeting point between test scores and GPA for accepted (and rejected) students. Aim for the green!

UGA

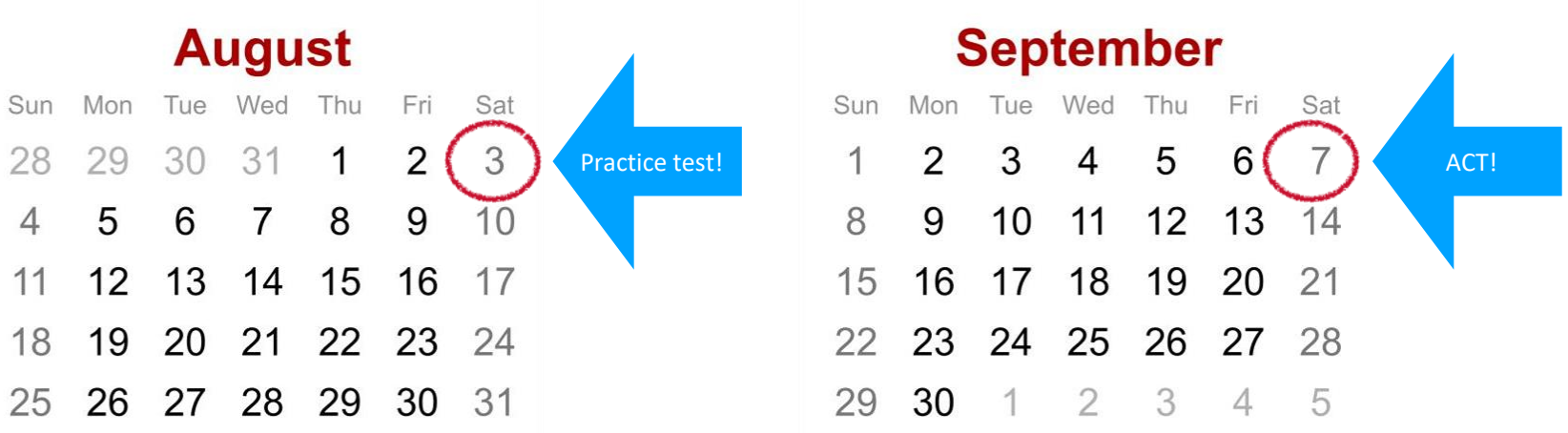


Naviance: www.naviance.com

Capex: www.cappex.com

Momentum: Go in Strong

It's tempting to think that spreading out your testing over the entire year is a good idea, but students can burn out that way. It's better to pick a few test dates to focus on and prepare before each one (10-12 weeks before the first test). estimate!).



You should take a practice test a month before the actual test to get a sense of how you'd do!

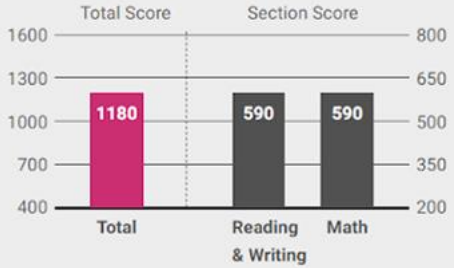
Practice: You must take mock tests

These tests mimic the real thing and can tell you a lot about:

Total Score: 1180

There are a lot more subscores and cross-test scores on the New SAT, but your total score is simply a Reading & Writing score (200-800) combined with a Math score (200-800). You scored a 1180 out of a possible 1600.

ACT Equ. Score: 24



Time management and mental fatigue

Reading 30

PASSAGE	CORRECT	INCORRECT	OMIT
Literature	8	2	0
History/S.S.	14	5	2
Science	6	4	0
Science (Comp)	7	4	0
TOTAL	**35**	**15**	**2**

It looks like you paced yourself well on this section. Nice job!

RHE: You lost the most points on Rhetoric questions.

Math 29.5

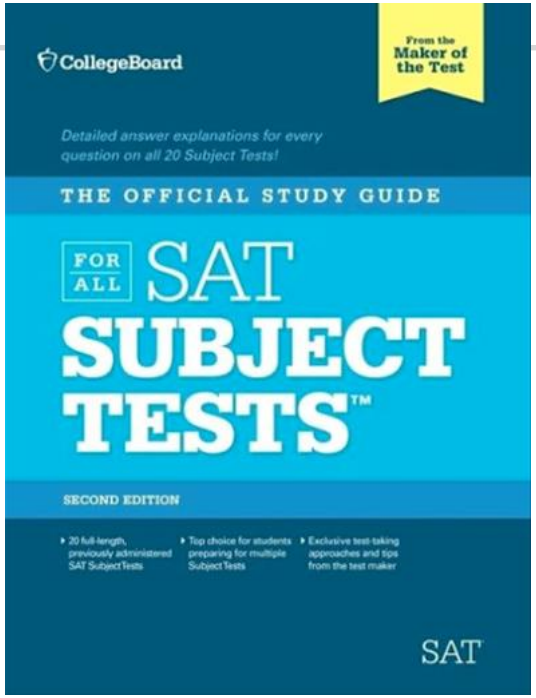
SECTION	CORRECT	INCORRECT	OMIT
No Calculator	12	5	3
Calculator	25	13	0
TOTAL	**37**	**18**	**3**

BAS: You lost the most points on Basic Modeling questions.

Wrong answer patterns, guessing efficacy and shaky content mastery

SAT Subject Tests

- The SAT Subject tests are **additional standardized tests** on a variety of subjects.
- Some schools require tests for **admission into specific programs** (like Math 2 for finance or engineering).
- **Fewer than 100 colleges use Subject Tests for admission**, and some accept the SAT + ACT as a replacement for SAT + SAT Subject Tests.
- **If the school your student is applying to *recommends* SAT Subject Tests, that really means "Take them!"**



If your student needs to take SAT Subject Tests, the best time to take them is May or June of the year they take the subject—the same time as AP Exams!

Our Services

- SAT & ACT prep (online, private, group)
- SAT Subject and AP prep
- HS subject assistance
- Study Skills

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Helping prepare students for higher scores and grades since 2001

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Let’s take some Questions!

Test-Like Practice Without Test Day Pressure

at Centennial High School

Full-length proctored tests enable you to see where you stand on the test, without the pressure of an official score. Afterwards, a comprehensive score report will help you target areas for improvement and plan for your real test accordingly.

Mock SAT	Mock ACT	SAT/ACT Diagnostic Test
February 2 9:00am - 1:30pm Event Code: M309589	March 2 9:00am - 1:15pm Event Code: M309591	March 23 9:00am - 1:30pm Event Code: M309592

$5 Mock Test Fee.

To register, go to www.applerouth.com/signup and enter the event code.

www.applerouth.com
info@applerouth.com
404-728-0661

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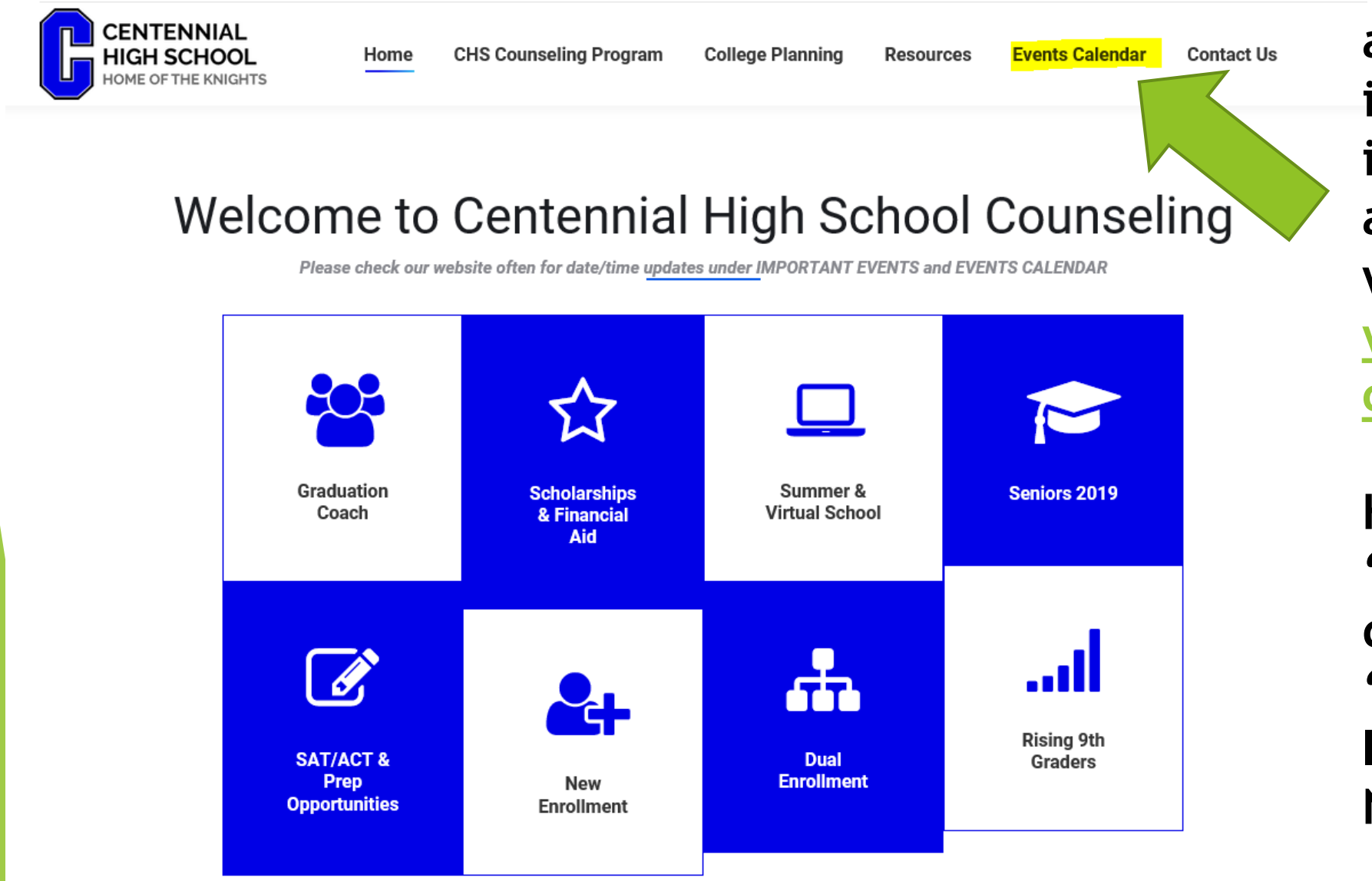
Thank you for attending!

Don’t forget to turn in your feedback form



This presentation and other important information is available on our website: www.mycentennialcounseling.com

Hover over “Events Calendar”- drop down menu to “Parent Informational Nights”