



GROSSE POINTE
COLLEGE
CONSULTING

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STAYING ON TRACK
A NEWSLETTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
AND THEIR PARENTS
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EXAM PLANNING FOR ALL STUDENTS

Set a Schedule: Create a weekly schedule by blocking off your activities, including sleep. Set aside specific study times for each subject and follow the schedule as best you can.

Stay healthy: With flu season, it is easy to succumb to colds and other viruses. Remember to eat healthy foods, exercise and get the necessary sleep you need to be efficient and to reduce stress. Remember to wash your hands often.

Be aware of your internal clock: Study when you are most rested and alert. For some students, this might mean a nap after school and then hitting the books. Each student must determine these times for himself or herself. Remember that a quiet, well-lit spot is important, too.

Form a study group: A group of three to six students can be helpful in studying for important tests. It is a great way to review materials, ask questions and discuss issues. The group should meet regularly and be available by phone or email to answer questions when the group is not meeting.

Help from teachers: Your teacher may offer exam review sessions outside of class. As your teacher reviews material, note what he/she stresses as the most important concepts, issues or ideas. If you still have questions after the review session (or if

your teacher does not hold such a session), do not hesitate to ask for his/her help before or after school. Most teachers want you to learn the material, not stump you on the exam.

Juniors

Remember that this year is the most important for college admission. Prepare for your exams carefully so that your grades reflect your best efforts.

Continue your preparation for the ACT and SAT tests. Register to take them at www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org. Each school has its own requirements so set up a test schedule for the semester in order to take all the tests required by your target schools. Remember that some universities require the SAT II subject tests, while other schools allow a student to substitute the ACT for subject tests.

Seniors

Don't relax just yet. Many colleges will be looking at your mid-term grades so prepare for exams and do well in all your classes. Form study groups for those courses that are most challenging for you.

Check again with your counselor to be certain that all graduation credits have been met and that the guidance office has the mid-year reports requested by the colleges to which you applied.

Parents

Help your children prepare to study by encouraging good study skills, assisting in the review of material, and offering your home for study groups to meet.

Provide good meals and encourage your student to eat breakfast.

Try not to schedule doctor or dentist appointments during the last few weeks of the semester.

Go on-line and complete the FAFSA as early in January as possible.
www.fafsa.ed.gov

STUDY TIP WEBSITES

<http://school.discovery.com/students/>

www.nationalgeographic.com/homework

INTERESTING TIDBIT

In the 1980's, women comprised 40% of the college population, but now it is 54%, according to U.S. Department of Education statistics. It is projected that the percentage of women in college will continue to grow faster than that of men.

HOW DO THE ACT AND SAT COMPARE?

Check out the attached web page from Princeton Review.com to see how the two tests compare. I suggest that students take both tests once and then retake the test on which they performed best (make sure to compare percentiles). Most colleges accept either test.

Teresa S. Lloyd

Articles and Research

SAT vs. ACT: How do the Tests Compare?

What is the difference between the SAT and ACT? They're both standardized tests and they both factor into the college admissions process. To learn about the differences between the two tests and how they compare, take a look at the chart below.

	SAT	ACT
When is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
What is the test structure?	Ten-section exam: Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental. The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.	Four-section exam: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.
What is the test content?	Math: up to 9th grade basic geometry and Algebra II. Science: none. Reading: sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension. Writing: an essay, and questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice.	Math: up to trigonometry. Science: charts, experiments. Reading: four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science. English: stresses grammar.
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes	No
How is the test scored?	200-800 per section, added together for a combined score. A 2400 is the highest possible combined score.	1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score.
Are all scores sent to schools?	Yes. If a student requests a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report will include the scores the student received on every SAT taken.	No. There is a "Score Choice" option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see.
Are there other uses for the exams?	Scholarship purposes.	Scholarship purposes. Certain statewide testing programs.