

**MARCH FOR FAMILIES OF 11THGRADE STUDENTS**

**STUDENTS**

**NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE**

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

**Your child can take free online practice tests at the following websites:**

* ACCUPLACER: (For community & technical colleges) [accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice](http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice)
* ACT: (For 4-year colleges) [www.act.org/academy](http://www.act.org/academy)
* ASVAB: (For the military) [official-asvab.com/applicants.htm](http://official-asvab.com/applicants.htm)
* SAT: (For 4-year colleges) [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat)

**Test Preparation**

Students planning to go to a four-year college will likely need to take either the SAT or the ACT. There are other standardized tests for those students planning to enlist in the military or to attend a two-year or technical college. *Share these test-taking tips with your child.*

**STRATEGY 1: KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT**

Spend a little time doing research before you take a standardized test. Use the Internet or your school’s career or counseling center to learn about each of the sections the test contains and what types of questions will be in each section. Make sure you understand the rules for each section: for instance, whether a specific section will require multiple choice answers or an essay. Even better, take a practice test so that you get a feel for the types of questions you will encounter.

**STRATEGY 2: READ THE INSTRUCTIONS**

Even if you’ve done your research, make sure you read the instructions for each section of the test. Know what the section is asking you to do, what types of answers are expected, how many questions are in that section, and how much time you have. Don’t assume that a section on an exam is just like a practice test. Read the instructions before you begin.

**STRATEGY 3: PACE YOURSELF**

On most standardized tests, there is a time limit for each section. Before you begin each section, make sure you know how much time you are allowed. Check your watch or the clock in the exam room to determine when you will have to finish. Then, calculate how many questions you must answer and determine how quickly you must work (for instance, two minutes per question or ten minutes per essay).

**STRATEGY 4: ANSWER EASY QUESTIONS FIRST**

Because the test is timed, it’s important to move through it as quickly as you can. If you don’t know the answer to a question right away, move on and come back to it later. Remember to skip that question on your answer sheet as well.

**STRATEGY 5: USE THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION FOR DIFFICULT QUESTIONS**

If you don’t know the answer to a question, see if you can eliminate any answers that are obviously wrong. If you are able to eliminate several of the possible answers, you can then make an educated guess from those that remain.

**Did You Know?**

Insert School Logo

School Contact Information:Click here to enter text.

Personnel: Click here to enter text.

Tutoring Center: Click here to enter text.

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

* **Family Event:**
* Click here to enter text.

# **MYTH:** The SAT and the ACT are tests of intelligence. The scores are a good indication of how well a student will do in college.

**REALITY**: Test scores reflect how good a student is at taking the SAT or ACT (as well as how much time one spent preparing)—and that’s about it.

The score does not measure how intelligent a person is, serve as a final grade for four years of high school, or predict how successful a student will be in life.

Nevertheless, admissions officers continue to place great weight on these tests when reviewing applications for admissions decisions.

So, it’s important for students to prepare and to do their best.

**Myth Buster**

**Student Checklist**

* **Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities.** Make a file for each college you are interested in and gather information about academics, financial aid, and campus life. Go to college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can about colleges online.
* **Begin planning college visits**. Spring break is a good time to visit. Try to visit colleges near you and include a large, medium size, and small campus. Find out if there are any field trips.
* **Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.** Go to the Admissions section of a college website to request more information.

**Family Checklist**

* **Search together for colleges that meet your child’s needs.** Once you have an idea of the qualities your child is looking for in a college, help him or her enter these criteria into [College Search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search) to create a list of colleges to consider applying to.
* **Help your child research scholarships.** Learn more through [College Board’s Scholarship Search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search), [Scholarship 360](https://scholarships360.org/), [College Greenlight](https://www.collegegreenlight.com/), and of course [theWashBoard.org](http://thewashboard.org/login.aspx).