



JUNIOR BULLETIN

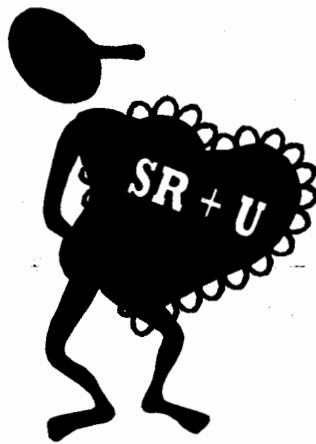
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Volume 3, Issue 2
February 2007

Should I Take the ACT, SAT or Both?

One of the first college decision to make as a junior pertains to standardized tests. There are two college-entrance exams that are generally considered good indicators of college success. These are the ACT and SAT tests. While there are some differences between them, both are accepted by most institutions of higher learning. However, these differences might make it easier for you to decide which to take.

Among the major differences is the fact that the ACT test does not require you to take an essay test. On the other hand, if you take the SAT, you have no choice—you will have to take its essay test, whether you like it or not. This means that if the college of your choice does not require an essay as an entrance requirement, then it might be more practical to take the ACT. So, if you take the ACT without the essay portion, you will be paying less



Be My Sweet Valentine!

for it (\$29 without the essay test, or \$43 with the essay) than if you had decided to take the SAT (\$41.50) and, in addition, you would spend less time in preparing for the test and taking the exam.

The question of difficulty always comes up concerning these tests. This is hard to answer. Some students tend to do better in the ACT test, while

others perform their best in the SAT. It is for this very reason that we encourage you to take both. Not only that, but we really motivate you to retake a test early next year. The reason being is that statistics show that retaking these tests improves your scores by an average of 20 to 30 points. You might say this is not much, but it will make a difference between being accepted or rejected at a highly competitive university like, say The University of Texas, Texas A&M, UCLA, Notre Dame, etc. Colleges suggest that students take these college-entrance tests toward the end of their junior year in high school (April, May or June) and then retake during the first semester of their senior year.

Review these test dates:

	Test Date	Apply By
ACT	April 14	March 9
SAT	May 5	March 29
SAT	June 2	April 27
ACT	June 9	May 4

Principal:
Troy McCarley

Assistant Principals:
Keith Moore-9th
Vanessa Reyes-9th
Charlie Riggs-11th
Robert Stock-12th
Sharla Winn-12th
Jim Young-10th

Dates To Remember

- Feb 5-15: Night School Regist.
- Feb 16: 4th Six Weeks ends
- Feb 20: TAKS Exit ELA
- Feb 26: GAP D starts
- Feb 27-28: TAKS Release-M,S
- March 1: TAKS Release-SS
- March 2: Waiver Day
- Mar 12-16: Spring Break
- Mar 24: Spanish Credit By Exam
- Apr 2: GAP E starts
- Apr 5: 5th Six Weeks ends
- Apr 6-9: Easter Break
- Apr 14: ACT Test
- Apr 18-20: TAKS Exit Tests
- May 5: SAT Test

How to Prepare for Standardized Testing

Many colleges recommend that students take their standardized test during the spring of their junior year. By this time, students typically have completed most of the coursework covered by these tests. Also, remember that it is advisable to retake them during the first semester of your senior year.

Keep in mind these common-sense tips:

- Know what to expect—which subtest are there and how long they take
- Be aware of registration deadlines and

apply early

- Work on the practice tests and review your answers
- Make sure you examine your admission for the correct test center, its location, date and data.
- Get plenty of rest the night before
- Bring with you the required items
- Bring a wristwatch and calculator

- Dress comfortably—check the weather, bring a sweater
- Do not consume a heavy breakfast that morning
- Arrive early at the test site
- Be prepared to work hard
- Study the test strategies in the study guides and the test's websites

What Is Distinguished Achievement?

Students who participate in the Distinguished Achievement Program must complete the 24-credit Recommended High School Program and receive any combination of FOUR of the advanced measures listed below. These measures must reflect college of professional level work which will be judged by an external review process. The advanced measures include the following:

- I. Original research/project that is:
 - judge by a panel of professionals in the field that is the project's focus; or
 - conducted under the direction of a mentor/mentors and reported to an appropriate audience; and

- related to the state's required curriculum set forth in section 74.13 of the 19 TAC Chapter 74 handbook.

(Project may not be used for more than two of the FOUR measures required.)

II. Test data where a student receives:

- a score of three or above on The College Board Advanced Placement Examination;
- a score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination;
- a score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as:

- a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- a part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of The College Board
- a part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

(The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.)

Juniors, Start Your Engines

The race to the college of your choice should start, not next year, but **NOW!** What you should do is the following: A) Write to at least ten colleges during the first semester of your junior year. B) Review the information to determine which college(s) meet your needs. C) Narrow your choices to about five and write them again regarding summer camps for high school seniors and programs for entering freshmen and financial aid. D) Meet all deadlines so that you will be considered for all available aid early next year.

Remember that on-line registration is the best way to go, and on-line applications are available by September. Yes, you heard right. September. Everyone hopes that by that time you will have a very good idea of what your top choices are. The early you apply, the better your chances of being admitted and being considered for all scholarships.

Don't waste time! Come on down to the counselor's office and browse over college catalogues located in our college room. There is plenty of information here to get

you started.

Once you have compiled this information, use it to begin writing to these colleges during your summer vacations. Also, start doing your volunteer work at this time, since many scholarships ask about it.

Once you establish communication with a college, they will start sending you all pertinent information about their institution, as well as any upcoming events.

Go Senior Class of 2008!

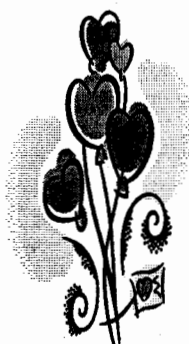
Do "bridges.com"

PISD has entered into an agreement with bridges.com to provide free information for our students and parents to facilitate college success.

Based on an interest and ability questionnaire, the program will suggest certain career choices, provided career research on those fields, and will link you to several colleges that offer that degree. At this time you can then research colleges of

your choice—anything from entrance requirements, housing, scholarships—and will even provide you with a place to store all this information. For Spanish-speaking parents and students, bridges.com can be done in that language. After logging in, click on the Site ID tab, enter **0052040** for Site ID, **srhs** for the password and start building your future.

Spanish Credit-By-Exam



The next Spanish Credit-by Exam session will take place on Saturday, March 24. If you can understand, speak, and write some Spanish, contact a Spanish teacher about applying or see Mr. Rios.

Scoring a 90 in the Spanish Level 1 test can give you one graduation credit. At a later date, you can tackle the Spanish Level II. The tests are free of charge. Apply early!!!