

# GRCHS SCHOOL DAY TESTING

## Schedule & FAQs

More details @ <http://counselors.grcs.org/school-day-testing>

GRCHS is adopting a one-day Fall & one-day Spring testing schedule in order to best position students for college testing and to be least intrusive to classroom instruction. All SCHOOL DAY TESTING is free for students and parents. Each test/program on these two dates (Oct. 10 and Mar. 6) are required of all students. Attendance will be taken.

Students will take practice tests for both the ACT and SAT. Given that colleges across the U.S. and beyond accept both exams, GRCHS's goal is to guide students toward the test that will advance them for college admissions and scholarships. Practice testing (i.e. PSAT) may also be used to identify students in need of additional academic support.

### FALL TESTING (required and free of charge)

#### Wednesday, Oct. 10

- 9<sup>th</sup> no testing; Freshmen Retreat
- 10<sup>th</sup> Practice ACT (No writing)  
\*extended time available for qualifying students
- 11<sup>th</sup> PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
\*extended time available for qualifying students
- 12<sup>th</sup> No testing; Senior Activity

### SPRING TESTING (required and free of charge)

#### Wednesday, March 6

- 9<sup>th</sup> PSAT 9 (no accommodations offered)
- 10<sup>th</sup> PSAT 10 (no accommodations offered)
- 11<sup>th</sup> SAT (No Writing)  
\* Accommodations for qualifying students
- 12<sup>th</sup> No testing; Senior Activity

## NATIONAL ACT & SAT TESTING DATES

### When are the NATIONAL SAT & ACT TESTING DATES offered and how do I register?

The ACT and SAT are offered on multiple Saturdays every year at GRCHS. Students can register online for the normal fee. Be sure to use the same student account info each time you register. Registration deadlines are typically at least 1 month prior.

#### **ACT DATES: Register at <http://actstudent.org>**

June 9, 2018  
July 14, 2018  
September 8, 2018  
October 27, 2018  
December 8, 2018  
February 9, 2019  
April 13, 2019  
June 8, 2019

#### **SAT DATES: Register at <http://collegeboard.org>**

June 2, 2018  
August 25, 2018  
October 6, 2018  
November 3, 2018  
December 1, 2018  
March 9, 2019  
May 4, 2019  
June 1, 2019

***Students receiving accommodations, please see Mrs. Amy Crow before registering for a National Test.***

## FAQs

### Do I need to register my student for the October and March SCHOOL DAY TESTING?

No, parents do not need to register students for these tests. The October and March dates will be organized by GRCHS. Results will be distributed to students and parents through the GRCHS Counseling Office.

### Why did the testing schedule change?

In Spring 2015, the State of Michigan adopted the SAT as the official state standardized test offered to juniors as part of the Michigan Merit Exam. The Michigan Competitive Scholarship is dependent on a score from the SAT.

We think it is important that students have the opportunity to prepare and practice for both the ACT and SAT. The PSAT and Practice ACT are excellent pre-tests for students to get a baseline score for both tests. Students can then pursue either the ACT or SAT for college admissions and scholarship purposes.

### What are the differences between the ACT and Re-designed SAT?

Both tests are achievement tests, which seek to measure what a student has learned in high school. Additional information is available at [counselors.grcs.org/testing](http://counselors.grcs.org/testing).

### What test should my student take for college requirements and when should they take them?

All colleges accept both the ACT and SAT for college admissions. Colleges do not prefer one test to another test. Colleges will accept the highest score received if students have taken multiple tests. Some things to know:

- All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the SAT in March at school for free as an official SAT score.
- Students may choose to take a NATIONAL ACT or SAT at anytime but *it is wise to take the preferred test at least twice BEFORE college applications are due senior year.*
- Counselors recommend every junior take the SAT and ACT at least once before the start of senior year.
- Students may re-take the tests during junior year or before early college deadlines of senior year.
- The best window to take these official tests is between January of junior year and October of senior year.
- Some students choose to retake a test in November or December of senior year for scholarship opportunities or for regular admissions deadlines (since early deadlines have passed).

### How can students prepare for these tests?

Counselors will continue to update Test Prep opportunities at [counselors.grcs.org/testing](http://counselors.grcs.org/testing).

1. Free Online Support
  - a. Khan Academy: One of the new changes that came with the Redesigned PSAT and SAT is the College Board's partnership with Khan Academy. All students can access free practice tests and test preparation materials through Khan Academy simply by creating an account at [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat).
  - b. Free online practice is also available for students taking the ACT at <http://actstudent.org>
2. Test Prep during school hours: There are opportunities for students to have free ACT/SAT prep during the school day at GRCHS. Students may talk to their counselors to see if this works in their schedule.
3. Summer Session Test Prep: Week long test prep opportunities are available in June and August before the ACT & SAT Saturday tests. The prep class costs \$125.
4. Individual Tutors: There are many individual tutors available in West Michigan. All contacts for recommended tutors on [counselors.grcs.org](http://counselors.grcs.org) under the "Testing" tab.
5. Workshops: Local workshops are available at Calvin College, Davenport, and Sylvan Learning Center.

**How do I know if my student is eligible to receive test accommodations?** If you have any questions about receiving testing accommodations, please email Amy Crow in the Educational Support Services office at [ACrow@grcs.org](mailto:ACrow@grcs.org).

### When will we get scores back for the SCHOOL DAY TESTING?

- October PSAT – scores will be back in early December
- All Spring SCHOOL DAY TESTING – scores will be back in April
- NATIONAL ACT & SAT TESTING – scores come back to students within 2-4 weeks of testing

Counselors will meet with students to review their PSAT scores once they are delivered to GRCHS. **Counselors will provide individual testing plans for juniors during February course registration meetings.**

