

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING AT KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Testing Timeline:**

Kirkwood High School recommends following a testing timeline that allows students to effectively prepare for the various tests required for scholarship and college admission purposes in order to avoid “testing burnout” prior to receiving their optimum test results. The testing timeline evolves from a standard process for all students in 9th and 10th, to an individualized testing plan for their 11th and 12th grade based on the student’s goals, strengths, and time constraints. This personalized testing plan is developed at individual meetings each student and his/her family have with the college counselor in the junior year.

### **Recommended Tests:**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the practice ACT and PSAT offered in the fall of their junior year to decide which test makes the most sense for them. The choice in most instances is typically a personal preference. While every student is urged to complete at least one ACT or one SAT by the end of the junior year, the specific testing plan that makes the most sense for each student will be discussed at individual family appointments in the junior year. Taking a first official test prior to the end of the junior year allows for time to prepare and retest well before any college application deadlines in the senior year.

### **Test Preparation:**

The best preparation for any standardized exam is consistent work in core-based college preparatory classes. Kirkwood High School students can enroll in a semester-long ACT prep class that would provide additional preparation based upon the results from any practice and/or national standardized tests. Kirkwood maintains a listing of various test preparation options on the college and career website.

### **Registering for standardized exams:**

Registration for the tests is handled as indicated below:

PSAT: This is a digital, nationally administered exam that is taken in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Students must take this exam in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program.

ACT: Kirkwood High School provides one, free, national ACT exam during the school day in the spring of students junior year. KHS will register students for this exam, however, it is the responsibility of the student to create their MyACT student account before they take the exam.

The ACT exam is given seven times in a calendar year, all testing is on Saturdays at an ACT designated testing center. Students register on their own through the ACT website – [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)

SAT: Students register on their own through the College Board website – [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)

### **A note about Test Optional and Test Blind Admission**

As of December of 2021, more than 1700 four-year colleges and universities have either relaxed the requirements for standardized testing or eliminated standardized testing as part of their evaluation process. While we believe some colleges will go back to utilizing testing for either admission or scholarship consideration, we also believe most of the 1700 plus schools will remain test optional or test blind. Our recommendation is that students try testing but if it becomes obvious testing will not contribute to understanding who a student is academically, there will be plenty of options for a student to consider where testing will not be needed.

Standardized testing results supplement the application materials submitted by a student to colleges by providing national norms. How colleges utilize testing in the college admission and scholarship process varies by school. As students select schools in which they are interested, learning about the school’s testing requirements and how they consider tests is an important part of the research.

## RECOMMENDED TESTING TIMELINE

### GRADE 10

November Virtual PSAT (practice SAT) all students

### GRADE 11

September: Practice ACT offered at Kirkwood High School

October PSAT (students must pay and follow KHS registration fees, instruction, **and deadlines**)

February Current juniors will begin taking the ACT National Exam

March KHS National ACT exam given during the school day

Current Juniors could begin taking the SAT

A recommended testing plan can be created after the first sitting for the SAT and/or ACT for a student by their college counselor at an individual student/family appointment that could occur between December and March of the junior year.

Potential additional testing dates include:

April ACT

May SAT, AP Exams if applicable

June Recommended 2<sup>nd</sup> sitting for the SAT or ACT

### GRADE 12

The recommended testing schedule is determined on an individual basis, as needed, by the student for the schools in which they are applying. **We encourage ALL students to finish their testing by the appropriate testing dates to ensure results are available for any application/scholarship deadlines:**

July ACT

August SAT

September ACT

October SAT or ACT (not preferred for early applications, i.e. those with deadlines between Oct 15 and Dec 1)

December SAT or ACT

May AP Exams if applicable