

JUNIORS – INFORMATION ABOUT TESTING

April 4, 2008

Juniors & Parents:

The Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) will be given on Wednesday, April 23rd, and Thursday, April 24th during the school day.

The first day of tests will be the ACT, consisting of multiple choice tests in English, Math, Reading, and Science, and will include the ACT writing test. The writing test has been added as part of the two days of testing. Students will have thirty minutes to produce an essay in response to a prompt question. The score for the ACT writing test will result from combining scores from the ACT English test together with the ACT Writing test. **The length of time required to complete all components of the ACT has prompted Hillsboro School District to dismiss all juniors upon completion of the ACT at approximately 12:20 p.m.**

The second day of testing (1st into 4th hours) will be the PSAE (science, applied mathematics, and reading for information). Students will resume regular scheduled classes following the completion of the PSAE.

These tests are **free**. Both test scores will carry meaningful importance in regards to future academic, vocational, and service plans. Hillsboro High School offers incentives for performing well on both days of testing including free parking and off campus lunch passes. **The ACT and PSAE scores will be recorded on student transcripts. All Illinois students are required to take the ACT/PSAE before they can receive a diploma from an Illinois high school.**

You may want to take the ACT more than once. Registration materials are in the Guidance Office. The ACT will be offered on Saturday(s), June 14th, (May 9th deadline), September 13th, (August 12th deadline), October 25th (September 19th deadline), December 13th (November 7th deadline), and February 7th (January 6th deadline). The cost is \$29.00. Students can take the ACT as many times as needed.

You need to decide if/when you want to test a second time; consider these choices:

1. Your April 23rd PSAE/ACT will come back before the June 14th ACT, but **not** before the regular registration deadline of May 9th.
2. You may put off re-take until October (when you can take it free again), but must take both tests (ACT and PSAE) in order to test free of cost.

Another college entrance test, the SAT, will be given periodically throughout the coming school year. You can find information on the internet (www.collegeboard.com). The SAT only tests Verbal and Math skills. Most schools in the mid-west prefer ACT.

There are some things you can do to prepare for ACT. Read through the “Preparing for the ACT/PSAE” materials and do the practice tests. Your teachers will be doing some classroom work to prepare for testing. Use the ACT web-site www.act.org then link to “Practice” then to “Test Preparations”. This is a good way to do sample questions. It will tell you why some answers are wrong. The Hillsboro H.S. library has ACT practice books with old ACT tests and hints/strategies for taking the ACT. If you have questions, ask a teacher for help.

Any questions about testing, see me.
Mr. Morford, Counselor