

M&M's Guide to Test Prep

We know that test prep can be stressful, so here are some suggestions to help make the process easier!

- **Plan to have your child take the ACT and SAT at least once:** Students need to make an educated decision about which test they are most comfortable with, especially if the schools they are applying to will accept either test.
- **Plan to make the FREE Spring ACT administration given in their junior year count:** Either use the scores from this test to help guide their prep for the next time they take the test, or plan for them to prep before the Spring test so that the score will count.
- **Prep AT LEAST 20 hours, and AT LEAST 1-2 months before test:** Students need time to ensure that they do their absolute best, and to make sure you are not wasting your money paying for registration fees.
- **Talk to your child's guidance counselor or an independent counselor:** Make sure that you have a plan of action for testing and college applications. There are A LOT of free resources online as well-Collegeboard.org is a good place to start.
- **Plan to have your child finish all of their testing before their senior year begins:** Get testing out of the way! Completing college applications is A LOT of work, especially if you plan to do early action/early decision.
- **Use superscoring to your advantage:** Contact us if you don't know what superscoring is and how it can help your child.

- **Keep scholarships in mind as well:** The goal is to get the highest score possible so that your child has choices of where they want to go and how to pay for their education.
- **Start early:** Create & execute a test prep plan during their sophomore & junior years, and summer leading into their senior year.
- **Avoid having students take either test more than three times:** This is another reason to prep and plan...students can get testing fatigue if they test too much.
- **Use testing accommodations:** If your child has an IEP or 504 on file at school, then apply for them to use accommodations when they take the SAT or ACT.
- **Content vs test-taking:** Students may need help with the actual content on the test; which is different than them needing help with test-taking skills. Choose the prep option that will address exactly what they need.

As always, call or email us with any questions!

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