

## **GUIDE TO COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS - PRACTICE TESTING**

FHC Academic Boosters Club (ABC) has offered an opportunity to take a Practice ACT test each year. Last year, the State of Michigan signed a three year contract with College Board to have high schools administer the SAT. ABC discussed with our counseling office which practice test we should provide for our students now that the SAT would be used as the standardized test component of MME testing. It was recommended that ABC continue with the Practice ACT test since our students will have school sponsored opportunities to practice the SAT as 9th, 10th, and 11th graders.

### **Understanding what the school currently provides:**

Fall – PSAT is administered to all Juniors (Practice/Identify areas for improvement)

Spring – PSAT is administered to Freshmen and Sophomores (Practice/Benchmarks/Goal Setting)

Spring – SAT is administered to Juniors (***This year on April 11, 2017***)

This test is an official SAT test score and is recorded with College Board. Your Junior student will be able to send this score to 4 different colleges for free.

### **What FHC/FHN/FHE ABC groups offer for PRACTICE testing:**

FHC – Practice ACT in January (This year on Saturday, January 14, 2017) – Information to follow

FHN – Practice ACT in January (This year on Saturday, January 7, 2017) – Information to follow

FHE – Practice SAT in November (This year it was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016)

FHE – Practice ACT in November (This year on Saturday, November 12, 2016) – Link to register:

<https://goo.gl/forms/ahYFYZTMA3subpUo2>

### **Why does each school campus charge a different amount for the testing?**

Academic Booster Clubs at each campus are managed by different boards and the price is based on their own costs and organizational mission.

### **What can I expect for a practice test administered by FHC ABC?**

ABC uses the free practice test booklets that you can get in the Counseling office; however, the value of the cost is in your child testing in a proctored environment. All the rules of the real test apply and the testing room will be proctored as if your student was taking the test at an official testing center. We test your student in the English, Math, Reading and Science content areas; but we do not run the Essay Writing portion. The essay can be completed at home since a practice test for this category is included in the booklet. Test answers and scoring instructions are provided for you to determine your own score at home.

### **If my child is getting SAT practice through school and an official SAT test for free during his/her Junior year, why would I want to have my child take a Practice ACT?**

Colleges still accept ACT scores and ACT may return as the standardized testing again after the SAT contract is over. Both ACT & SAT are content based tests but the style of testing is different. Some students find that the ACT caters to their strengths more than the SAT, and vice versa. By taking a Practice ACT, you can determine which test best suits your child. You can review the key differences of these tests on the next page.

WE HOPE THIS HELPS – HAPPY TESTING!

<b>SAT</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>ACT</b>
content-based test	<b>Type of Test</b>	content-based test
Reading: 1, 65-min section; Math: 1, 25-min section (no calculator) & 1, 55-min section (w/ calculator); Writing & Language: 1, 35-min section; Essay: 1, 50-min section(optional)	<b>Test Format</b>	English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 40-min essay (optional)
reading, relevant words in context, math, grammar & usage, analytical writing (optional)	<b>Content Covered</b>	grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving	<b>Test Style</b>	straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800. Composite SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranged from 400-1600.	<b>Scoring</b>	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36
no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers	<b>Penalty - Wrong Answers?</b>	no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers
yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges	<b>Score Choice?</b>	yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges
questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage)	<b>Difficulty Levels</b>	difficulty level of the questions is random
arithmetic, problem-solving & data analysis, heart of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry; formulas provided.	<b>Math Levels</b>	arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided
with private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores	<b>Tends to be more popular?</b>	with public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, and December	<b>Offered when?</b>	six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, and December
typically about four weeks before the test date	<b>Registration deadline?</b>	typically about five to six weeks before the test date
<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	<b>More Information</b>	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>

