

TESTING AND STUDYING

COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELORS
JANUARY 2022

MRS. WINTERS- DEAN OF STUDENTS- 12TH GRADE

MS. STEPHENSON- COUNSELOR 9TH-11TH A-J

MS. TRIPP- COUNSELOR 9TH-11TH K-Z

TYPES OF MAJOR TESTING THAT STUDENTS HAVE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Mid Year

- Midterm Assessments

College Admissions Testing

- PSAT
- Pre-ACT
- SAT
- ACT

End of Year Testing

- Teacher Made Exams
- EOCs
- AP Exams

MIDTERM TESTING

MIDTERM TESTING INFORMATION

Tuesday 1/11- Periods 1 & 2

Wednesday 1/12- Periods 3 & 4

Thursday 1/13- Periods 5 & 6

Friday 1/14- Periods 7 & 8

- Two are given a day, no regular classes to attend.
- Early dismissal at 1:00 pm
- Will now be done virtually

MIDTERMS CONT.

- Teachers use Curriculum Standards to create a comprehensive exam that covers the content for the first semester.
- Parents and students are responsible for making sure students are present online with cameras on for their midterm exams and/or make-up exams.
- According to the community handbook (p. 11), “students may not be purposefully absent on the day an assignment (or exam) is due. Students who are ill on the day of the exam are required to have a doctor’s note..”
- Midterms are worth 20% of the student’s Semester 1 grade.

TEACHER MADE MIDTERMS

- Teachers will review the week before exams.
- Students should utilize study guides to create interactive study experiences.
- Students should attend tutoring hours in courses they are struggling with and complete study guides in advance to ask questions about difficult topics.

STUDY IDEAS

- Create flashcards- but do different things with them (create a timeline for Social Studies or history courses, a matching game with definitions on one and words on another- or names on one and events on another- physical manipulation of the the cards).
- Create test questions, go back and answer them.
- Rewrite notes in easier to read formats.
- Use colored pens, highlighters, and note cards if you have visual learners.
- Teach someone else in the house, have a conversation about it.
- If students can safely study with a friend- even via Zoom- they can quiz each other, discuss the topic, play games with the information, etc.

END OF YEAR TESTING

END OF YEAR TESTING CALENDAR

| <u>AP exams</u> | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| Week of 5/2 | AP Chemistry | APES AP Psychology | AP Lit AP Comp Sci A | AP Statistics | APUSH AP Art History AP Art Studio Portfolios Due |
| Week of 5/9 | AP Calc AB/BC Computer Sci | AP Lang | None | None | AP Music Theory |

| | Monday 5/30 | Tuesday 5/31 | Wednesday 6/1 | Thursday 6/2 | Friday 6/3 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>Teacher Made</u> | Memorial Day | 1st & 2nd | 3rd & 4th | 5th & 6th | 7th & 8th |
| | Monday 6/6 | Tuesday 6/7 | Wednesday 6/8 | Thursday 6/9 | Friday 6/10 |
| <u>EOCs- subject to change</u> | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | Any Make Ups |

TEACHER MADE FINAL NOTES

- Teachers use Curriculum Standards to create a comprehensive exam that covers the content for the full year.
- Two are given a day, no regular classes to attend.
- Final Exams count as 20% of the student's final course grade.
- See study tips above and work with teachers and counselor for additional strategies
- Study hall periods will be used to study, attendance expected.

EOCS- END OF COURSE TESTS- STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

MANDATES

- Standardized Testing
- State-wide EOCs are given for: Math 1 and Math 3, English 2, and Biology.
- EOCs are state-wide and must be administered in a strict testing window with strict procedures and directions to maintain validity and confidentiality of the test.
- Must be administered in-person, information will be forthcoming on times and expectations for arrival.
- The test counts for 20% of student final course grade.
- Students will not have a teacher-made final exam in these courses

STUDYING FOR EOC EXAMS

- Teachers will review the same as they do for teacher-made exams.
- The questions are developed by the state, so teachers often use study materials available to make sure students are familiar with the wording and question types.
- Students should study using the same strategies mentioned for teacher made exams.
- Mrs. Babb is our EOC Testing Coordinator. You will receive information about testing from her as we approach the end of the year.

AP TESTING

- Standardized Test
- All students taking an AP Course are required to take the accompanying AP Exam.
- The Exam score is NOT factored into their final course grade.
- Passing the AP Exam can allow students to earn college credit in high school. The amount of credit is determined by the college.
- AP Exams are Nationwide and have strict testing windows and procedures to adhere to for validity and confidentiality of testing.
- Students will be taking AP Exams virtually at home. They have been given information about this through their AP Teachers.
- Ms. Stephenson is the AP Testing Coordinator and should be contacted if there are concerns about devices and procedure.

STUDYING FOR AP EXAMS

- Since this is a Nationwide standardized tests, much of in class test preparation will prepare students for the types of questions they will encounter on the exam.
- Students should still use provided study guides and study skills mentioned in previous slides to study the material.
- Online practice testing is helpful with standardized testing, too.

COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS
TESTING

PSAT AND PRE-ACT

PSAT

- Given to all students who are registered as first time Juniors at LSA- no expense
- Scores be used for certain summer or other enrichment programs
- Use scores to look at deficits to study before taking SAT
- Scores can qualify students for scholarships

Pre ACT

- Given to all students who are registered as first time Sophomores at LSA
- Scores can be used for certain summer or other enrichment programs
- Use scores to look at deficits to study before taking ACT Junior year

SAT

- Used for college admissions
- We do not offer at LSA
- Use the College Board website to find testing locations and times that fit your schedule.
- SAT is typically offered 8 times per academic year: August, October, November, December, March, May, June, July.
- It is recommended to take both SAT and ACT at least once, analyze scores.
 - Your student should look at what they performed best on and which they were most comfortable with
 - Look at gaps and areas of deficit
 - Study those areas on the preferred test
 - Retake

ACT

- Used for college admissions
- State of NC pays for all Juniors in the state to take once. LSA administers in February.
- Use the ACT.org website to find testing locations and times that fit your schedule.
- ACT is typically offered 7 times per academic year: September, October, December, February, April, June, July
- It is recommended to take both SAT and ACT at least once, analyze scores.
 - Your student should look at what they performed best on and which they were most comfortable with
 - Look at gaps and areas of deficit
 - Study those areas on the preferred test
 - Retake

STUDYING FOR SAT AND ACT

- KNOW THE TEST- practice, practice, practice.
- Use free practice tests on reputable websites such as Khan Academy.
- Books such as Kaplan or College Board books also provide practice tests.
- Take a full practice test, score, look at areas of deficit and study those areas more.
- SAT and ACT specific study materials (from reputable sources) offer test taking tips and strategies specific to their test along with content.
- Utilize free resources from reputable sources such as Khan Academy.
- Hire a tutor if student is more interactive and it's in your budget. Look at credentials, ask what they cover. You want strategies AND content. Many times tutors specialize in one area, so you may need more than one if you're trying to increase scores in all.

TIPS FOR ALL TESTS

TIPS FOR PERFORMING WELL ON ANY TEST

- Plan ahead!
- If you can pick date (like ACT and SAT), make sure it doesn't conflict with major thing.
- Know how to get to the testing location (if you are not taking SAT or ACT on campus)
- Always plan to get to the location at least 30 minutes before testing time (most have cut off times for allowing people in and have strict standardized start times or start time windows)
- Have a comfortable outfit picked out in advance, wear layers to plan for hot/cold testing rooms.
- Have breakfast picked out and get a good night's sleep.

TIPS FOR PERFORMING WELL ON ANY TEST CONTINUED

- STOP STUDYING the night before a major exam or standardized test.
 - Your brain will not absorb, and you'll actually have more anxiety.
 - If anything, look over tips and not content.
- For midterm and final exams- focus only on the next day's exams the day before
 - Give yourself a cut off time and stick to it (early evening so you have time to relax)
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a good breakfast that isn't too heavy.
- Have snacks for breaks and water bottles prepared the night before.
- Plan self-care and intentional relaxation for after testing. It gives you something to look forward to and keeps you motivated.