

November 2022

Dear IV Form Parents,

As you know, IV Form students had the chance to take the PSAT for the first time this fall. This IV Form administration is primarily about giving students a chance to experience an SAT-style test for the first time. In addition, it is also a practice for the V Form PSAT, which serves as the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program and yet another chance to practice for the SAT.

To provide students with the opportunity to experience the other major standardized test used in college admissions, we will be offering IV Formers a **practice ACT exam on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 8 a.m.** (There is no SM Saturdays programming that day, and students who take the practice test will not miss any school commitments.) Giving students an opportunity to experience both SAT- and ACT-style standardized tests at this relatively early stage allows us to help them assess whether one test better suits their learning and/or testing style and to more intentionally guide their testing plans moving forward.

Students do not need to do anything to prepare for the practice ACT. They will simply need to report to the testing location (details to follow) on December 10 equipped with No. 2 pencils, a calculator, and water/snacks. If your child received extended time for the PSAT, we will offer the same accommodation on the practice ACT. Note that if your child decides to focus on the ACT for official testing, you will need to work with Sarah Eslick, Director of Academic Support, to apply for accommodations on the ACT. ACT is a separate entity from the College Board; accommodations on one test do not automatically transfer to the other.

The practice ACT is not required of IV Formers, but we **expect** them to take advantage of this opportunity. Students will be receiving an email with a link to sign up so that we can plan for the appropriate number of students. Please talk to your child about taking the practice ACT and completing the sign-up form.

This spring, your child and you will receive a mailing from the College Counseling Office with preliminary recommendations for a testing plan based on the results from the PSAT and practice ACT. This summer, we will also be in touch with information about test prep at St. Mark's for V Formers.

Please be in touch with any questions.