



July 2024

Dear Junior Parents and Guardians,

The junior year is an important and exciting time for your child as they begin the college selection process. As part of that process, all juniors will take the ACT college admission examination on a school day during the second semester of this year. The results of these tests are among the criteria that colleges use in making admission decisions and determining scholarship eligibility.

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is designed to be taken early in the junior year and is not only a practice SAT but also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT is only offered once each school year in October, and the junior year is the only time students can take the PSAT and qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. New Trier will administer the PSAT on Saturday, October 19 to juniors who register online to take the test.

The state of Illinois uses the ACT as the required college-readiness assessment of Illinois high school students. Therefore, all juniors are required to take the ACT which is tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 (pending ISBE approval). The ACT focuses on the classroom skills and knowledge that are essential for college readiness and success.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS AND TEST  
PREP COURSES.**

**PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test) Saturday,  
October 19, 2024**

- **This test is optional. Juniors opting to take the PSAT must register online [HERE](#) by September 1, 2024 – NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- The PSAT/NMSQT is a multiple-choice test that measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills.
- PSAT scores are not reported to colleges, nor are they included on a student's transcript.
- The PSAT provides entry into competitions for important national scholarships and recognition programs such as National Merit Scholarships, National Achievement Scholars, and National Hispanic Scholars. In addition, students designated as National Merit Semi-Finalists or Commended Students often receive preferential admission to selective colleges and universities even if they have not earned a National Merit Scholarship or Finalist status.
- The cost of the test is \$22.

## STATE ACT

### **\*Wednesday, April 9, 2024 (pending ISBE approval)**

- The ACT will include English language arts, mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
- The score may be sent to colleges if a student requests it to be reported; it is not included on a student's transcript.
- The ACT test is a state requirement for high school graduation, and all juniors must take it on the official ISBE test date.
- The state offers this test free of charge; students do not need to register.

## TEST PREPARATION COURSES

The best preparation for college admission tests is a rigorous curriculum, which New Trier provides. Historically, New Trier students have done very well on both the ACT and SAT due to the breadth and depth of the curriculum and course offerings. However, some students may benefit from a formal test preparation course. The New Trier test preparation course includes both the ACT and SAT. This fall and next winter, ACT and SAT preparation courses will be available after school on campus. **It is strongly recommended, however, that juniors wait until the winter to take a test preparation course so they will have covered most of the subject matter on college admission tests.**

### **After-School ACT & SAT Preparation Course**

The fall sessions of the after-school ACT & SAT preparation course taught by New Trier faculty members in the English, mathematics, and science departments will begin in late August. We will be offering two versions of the class. Both versions of the course include textbooks and practice tests, in-depth instruction by New Trier faculty members, guided practice with test-taking strategies, and detailed score reports from the three practice exams. These courses prepare students with strategies and materials that will prepare them for both the ACT & SAT exams.

### **In-Person Class:**

Instruction will be after school every day, Mondays through Thursdays at the Winnetka Campus. The attached calendar shows the exact dates and schedule. The course includes sixteen hours of in-person instruction, divided among four subject areas: English, reading, math, and science. Students are grouped with their peers based on their current math and English classes at New Trier to provide targeted instruction aligned with their current curriculum. The fee is \$450, and enrollment is limited to 100 students. [In-Person Class Calendar](#)

### **Online Class:**

Due to popular demand, we are also offering an [online, evening session](#) of the class again this year. Classes will be held entirely online, and practice tests will be taken primarily on students' own schedules from home (see attached calendar for details). Classes meet Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30 PM online. Like the in-person class, students receive instruction from New Trier math, science, and English teachers. The three official practice tests will be taken by students online at home and self-paced. Students use the same texts and practice tests as the in-person class, but this is a great option for students with busy schedules and students who are more self-directed and motivated to improve their test scores. The fee for the online session is \$475 and enrollment is limited to 50 students. [Online Class Calendar](#)

Registration for this fall session will be available through RevTrak on a first-come first-served basis. **Registration will open at 7:00AM, Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**. Use [THIS LINK](#) to register for either the online or in-person options. In order to register successfully, you will need to have on hand your child's student ID number, the name of their adviser, and the name and course numbers of your child's current math and English courses in which they are enrolled at New Trier. Registration typically fills up quickly, so plan to be online at 7:00AM if you want to secure a spot. If you do not receive a spot, but would like to be added to the **waiting list**, please email the coordinators below after registration fills.

For additional information about the New Trier ACT & SAT preparation course, please contact program coordinators Kevin Bond ([bondk@nth.net](mailto:bondk@nth.net)) or Eric Berliant ([berliane@nth.net](mailto:berliane@nth.net)).

**If you have questions about registration for college admission tests, please contact Erin Torrisi, Testing Manager, at 847-784-2259 or [testing@nth.net](mailto:testing@nth.net).**

All the best,



Chimille Tillery, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction