

DHS Test Preparation Program for PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Accuplacer

For the 2011-12 school year, reading and student discourse (thinking and explaining) have been chosen to be a school-wide focus to help improve student preparation for standardized tests and to become college ready. Each department will focus on more individual reading in the classrooms in order for students to increase their reading comprehension and analysis of the content. The “Article of the Week” format is being used to encourage student reading. Articles do not have to relate directly to course instruction; general interest articles are also appropriate. Teachers will make connections to standardized tests through course content as they provide instruction to students. English classes in grades 10, 11 and 12 as well as selected math classes Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Quant. Literacy provide sample PSAT/SAT/ACT/Accuplacer problems.

PSAT

In September and early October, English 10 classes will focus on English/reading activities as warm-up activities to help student with PSAT. Selected math classes review math sample PSAT/SAT/ACT/Accuplacer problems.

During the last week of September, each 10th and 11th grade student will receive a PSAT sample test booklet. On Monday of that week, English will distribute the test booklets and have the students complete section 5 of the 5 part test. During the remainder of that week, students in math classes will take sections 2 and 4, social studies will do section 1, and science will complete section 3. The students will take the test in class and the correct answers will be given. On Friday, English classes will explain to students how their total scores are computed.

For the two weeks after testing, the teachers will review the questions and answers to help the students to better prepare for the PSAT test in mid October.

SAT Prep

In early October of the junior year, counselors meet with students to discuss college options and encourage students to sign up to take the PSAT. Students sign commitment forms. In mid November, juniors are given a Mock ACT test. Staff considers the results of the mock ACT along with PSAT scores, course of study, and student post secondary plans to determine which test students may be most successful taking- the test that best fits their strengths. That information is shared in 1 on1 meeting with counselor and student and an information letter is sent home to parents. Parent meeting will be held in early February to explain testing options and available resources for students. Approximately 60% of our juniors take either the SAT /ACT during their junior year.

In early September of the senior year, guidance counselors will meet with every senior to review college plans and the test that best fits their strengths. Students are reminded to sign up for either the SAT, ACT or Accuplacer. Guidance counselors will get a commitment from the seniors as to which test they are going to take or re-take and the date they plan on taking it.

October SAT

Seniors who sign up for the October SAT are identified and invited to pull-out review sessions. Students who have a score over 1800 do not need to attend these sessions. All other students are strongly encouraged to take the review sessions. The review sessions occur the week prior to the test and DHS staff will provide 7 periods of review. One session will provide 2 periods of math review. Students will be provided with several examples of math problems. Other review sessions include two periods for critical reading, 1 period for writing and 2 periods for Final SAT Prep. In previous years, DHS has approximately 60-70 students take the SAT in October; therefore, our review sessions require two teachers and two classrooms. Classrooms are determined by the math/English/RT and the administration. Sub coverage is necessary for the teachers who are doing the pull-out sections, as well as different classrooms for the teachers in the rooms they are using. A similar review format is used for the November and December SAT test.

Accuplacer

This year Damascus High School will offer an Accuplacer test. Students will sign up with their counselors. An orientation session will be provided. The orientation sessions will last 1 period and will be offered at three different times during the day so students can attend. Students will be identified for certain sections based on their elective classes. This orientation session will review what the Accuplacer is, its importance, how it will be used, and some general information about Montgomery College.

ACT- October and December

ACT review sessions are offered the week prior to the ACT. Review sessions include: 1 period science, 2 periods math, 2 periods reading/English combined and 2 periods for ACT Prep. Two computer labs will be needed for final prep.

SAT – November

Due to a shorten week, we will offer 3 days of review; 2 in English/Reading, 2 in math, and 2 in Final SAT Prep.

SAT- December- see SAT above.

Filed: admin shared/ testing/ Test prep plan