COLLEGE READINESS
ACT, Test-Taking Strategies, and Plans for Improvement
COLLEGE-READY?

- What does it mean to be college-ready?
  - In a position to be admitted into college without conditions and predicted to be successful.

- What are the three predictors of college-readiness?
  - GPA/class ranking
  - ACT/SAT scores
  - Access to challenging courses in highschool
**WHO NEEDS TO BE COLLEGE-READY?**

- Although not every child anticipates going to college, it is important that they at least have that choice or opportunity.
- Some will go to college right away. Some will do other things and return to college later.
GPA/Class Ranking

- Every college application asks about GPA.
- Most college applications ask about class ranking in percentages.
- Most colleges require that a student’s GPA is kept above 2.5 for scholarships.
TIPS FOR IMPROVING GPA

- Go to class EVERY day and ON TIME.
- When possible, sit near the front of the room.
- Three-step note process
  - Take good notes of important ideas and examples.
  - Re-write notes and re-work examples at home.
  - Study notes and ask the teacher or a study-buddy to clarify misunderstandings from the notes the following day.
- Think through questions in a thorough manner.
  - K-Key words are circled
  - A-Asking: What is the question asking in my own words?
  - S-Side notes (ELA, History, and Science); Strategy (math)
  - E-Eliminate and explain all choices’ correctness or incorrectness, justifying rationales.
GPA/Class Ranking

Tips for improving GPA/Class ranking (continued)

- Always do extra work/credit.
- Ask for tutoring from the teacher, a hired person, or study buddy. The tutor should communicate with the teacher about the student’s needs.
- Work toward an “A.”
- Study a little every day.
- Use extra class time wisely.
- Get on-line help.
- Create mini-anchor charts with steps and processes.
- Use flashcards for words, formulas, vocabulary, facts, dates, etc., especially for biology and history.
- Take challenging classes.
- Don’t take the “off period.”
- Make connections with other classes.
ACT/SAT

- You cannot get into a university without a good ACT score.
- You cannot play sports your first year without a good ACT score.
- You cannot get an academic scholarship without a good ACT score.
- Soon, the ACT will be the exit exam for high schools.
- The ACT is being changed to align with the expectations of CCSS.
ACT/SAT

• ACT: Reading, English, Math, Science
• SAT, Reading, English, Math
• Start taking the ACT in eighth grade. Take it at least once a year and IMMEDIATELY following the completion of a difficult math class.
• Grow by two to three each time.
STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING ACT/SAT

READING

Read, read, read lengthy passages.
  • Newspapers
  • On-line articles
  • Journals
  • News reports
  • Documentaries

Know the origins of words
  • Mari—water
  • Struct-build
  • Vis-see
  • Terr-land
### Improving ACT/SAT

- Read the questions for each section prior to reading the passage.
- Read the whole paragraph when asked about a question from a certain paragraph.
- Think! KASE it out.
- Read through all choices.
IMPROVING ACT/SAT

MATH

• Work the ones you know first.
• Come back to the ones you are unsure about.
• Eliminate all wrong choices.
• Complete the problem. A distractor is to have half the problem complete.
• Take your calculator with formulas programmed in.
IMPROVING ACT/SAT

Science

- Passages are often distractors.
- Some questions only need the graph, table or chart to answer.
- Start looking in the newspaper and in on-line forums for graphs, charts, and tables. Interpret them.
IMPROVING ACT/SAT

- ENGLISH
  - Know about comma splices.
  - Know about punctuation for varied sentence structures.
  - Take the writing although it cannot help your composite score.

- Get used to ESSAY writing.
Access to Challenging Courses

- Talk with the counselor often and teachers for recommendations into harder courses. Just exposure to the courses help.
- More challenging courses can weight your GPA.
- Do what it takes.
- Take on-line courses.
- Dual enrollment
- Get serious. You can play later.
SCHOLARS

- MS Scholars
- Distinguished Scholars
- Eminent Scholars
QUALITY

- Don’t be as concerned about an “A” as you are about learning.
- Show up for your life!
- Do what others are willing to do now, and one day you will be able to do what others cannot do.
- Give up to go up!