



# **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!

