

## **DPHS COUNSELING CENTER**

### **SAT/ACT/PSAT/AP PREPARATION IDEAS**

Following are a number of ideas that may be useful in your search for support in studying for your national exams. Plan ahead, be a wise consumer, and ask friends, counselors, and teachers for additional ideas. We suggest using at least two of the following suggestions to be prepared. It is especially important for juniors and seniors to follow a good timeline. We suggest:

1. Take subject exams (needed by UC and some private schools) as soon as you complete the course, ie world history in June after AP World History; chemistry in October after a summer chemistry class. If you are majoring in engineering or math, you should take a chemistry or physics subject exam and math level 2. UC's require two exams from separate disciplines; you can take up to 3 exams at a time.
2. Take the SAT in March and again in May or June; take the Subject exam in May or June.
3. Most colleges insist on December of senior year as cut-off. Some colleges require earlier dates, i.e. San Diego State has an October cut-off; Cal Poly SLO suggests October.
4. You can send your SAT scores to all CSU's by sending them to college code #3594, leaving 3 more free report sites. The ACT does not have such a service.
5. Consider taking the ACT as well - 4 areas of testing and no penalty for incorrect answers. It does NOT include writing, which is fine for CSU's. You must take the ACT+writing on the same date for UC consideration.
6. FEE WAIVERS are available for all tests; a limit of two each for the SATs and Subject Exams; one for the ACT – available only in the junior year or above – see your counselor.
7. Extended testing is available IF you have approved extended testing accommodations in school. See your counselor – there is a deadline.
8. SATs are given at DPHS in October and Mark only –test site #05292

**Career Center** – has AP, SAT, SAT II and ACT books and some CD's. Most of these are donated, but still very useful. Most address the NEW SAT prep, i.e., writing and advanced algebra in the PSAT and SAT I, but old publications are still excellent and FREE to check out.

**Websites** - the counseling office and website has a double paged list of useful websites, with many sites offering free help with test prep. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) offers a different “question of the day” daily, and many samples of subject exams and PSAT questions. For SATs and ACT consider: [number1.com](http://number1.com), [ACT.org](http://ACT.org),

**On-line - Thompson-Petersons, Princeton, College Board, RMASS -** SAT, PSAT, and ACT courses. Varies from \$25 to \$55. Most programs have a whole year to access the website from the time you begin. You should be highly motivated to make the most of this type of studying.

**Commercial individual support** – Kaplan, Huntington, California Learning Center, private tutors, Ivy West, Princeton, and more offer courses in person, as tutors, classes, etc. Hourly or class. Buy CD/DVD programs, other online programs, flash cards, PDA software, etc.

**UCSB Extension** – offered in fall in spring; about \$150 for two intensive Saturdays. Contact UCSB.

**RMASS** – one day, 6-hour intensive course offered at DPHS or two day 3hrs; \$80. Pay online at [www.rmass.com](http://www.rmass.com) or call toll free at 866-238-1218, or bring check payable to RMASS. Set for October 7, from 9:00 to 3:00 – see poster in office. Spring also.

**Ivy West -** ACT test prep; \$125 payable to Ivy West – give to Ms. Cole in Office  
for the October 28 ACT test:  
October 17 – 6:00 – 9:30 diagnostic full length ACT  
October 19, 24 and 26. 6:00-9:00 prep course.  
For June9 ACT test  
May 20 diagnostic 1:00 – 4:30; results May 23 – 6:00-7:30 pm  
May 30, June 4, 6 prep course (same as above)

**Cal-SOAP/SBCC– Free** sign up with Heather Magner Sept. 30 and Nov. 18 this year; 8:00 – 3:00 at SBCC. Should be low income, first generation, underserved

**PTSA sponsored Free workshops** – 10/5 and 10/12 this year; 7:00 – 9:00 cafeteria; math and verbal; sign up in counseling. Excellent for SAT in October and PSAT

**Test Drives** – Princeton and Ivy West offers full length test with results and strategy session in two days. Well worth the \$20 fee to see if you need a course – sign up in the business office with checks payable to DPHS. They are offered usually 2 times a year. This year they will be offered:

10/29 – 1:00- 5:00 H-30; 11/2 results- 7:00-8:30 H-30; for Nov. 4 SAT  
2/24 – 9:00 – 1:00 H-30; 2/28 results – 7:-8:30 H-30 for March 10 SAT  
5/20 – 1:00 – 4:30 H-30; 5/23 results- 6:00 – 7:30 H30 for June 9 ACT

**Kaplan, Princeton Review classes** – offered at DPHS. Deeply discounted programs, exactly like those offered for over \$800 on their site. \$400-\$450 with some scholarships available. Sign up directly with the local office, letting them know you are taking it through DPHS program.

Princeton- 12 sessions, including 3 test days (add half hour) .  
Saturdays 9:00 – 12:00 noon; Tuesdays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; holidays excluded  
March 3 – May 1 ---- in time for May 5 SAT Test.