Standardized Testing: The Big Picture

We recommend that students take the SAT and ACT beginning in the late fall/winter or spring of their junior year. This allows students to prioritize their work in their academic classes as they transition to the increased rigor of junior year. Because junior year grades are particularly important to the college application process, we believe students need time to focus on their classes early in their junior year.

Possible exceptions include:

- Sophomores who are in the athletic recruiting process, who are on an accelerated math track, or who are feeling anxious about the test-taking experience and would like to take a test for a baseline.

Recommended Testing Timeline

Fall, Junior Year	PSAT NMSQT (taken at PG)
Winter/Spring, Junior Year	Take SAT & ACT at least once ● SAT (November, December**, or March) ● ACT (October, December, or February**)
Second Semester, Junior Year	Meet with College Counseling ● Based on scores, discuss follow-up testing on preferred test (SAT or ACT)
Summer/Early Fall, Senior Year	Repeat SAT and/or ACT, as needed

***We recommend December as the first SAT test date for juniors and February as the first ACT test date for juniors. We recognize, however, that students' schedules may vary.*

Free Test Prep Resources	**In-Person Test Prep Resources**	**Online Test Prep Resources**
ACT College Board Khan Academy IXL (email helpdesk@portergaud.edu for help with access)	Capabilities Focused test prep is available in the Lyceum. Please contact Meghan Robinson (mrobinson@portergaud.edu) for details about pricing and scheduling.	Compass Prep Princeton Review Kaplan Test Prep Revolution Prep

2026-2027 SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration	Score Release Date
December 5	November 20	November 24	December 18
March 6	February 19	February 23	March 19
May 1	April 16	April 20	May 14
June 5	May 21	May 25	June 21

2026-2027 ACT DATES AND DEADLINES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration	Score Release Date
February 27	January 22	February 9	March 16
April 10	March 5	March 23	April 20
June 12	May 7	May 25	June 22
July 10	June 4	June 22	July 20