

Taking the ACT...

Greetings,

Taking an ACT is part of the journey for a high school student; albeit not a super well understood part. As such, please find a few key points below. If any questions remain, as always, please feel free to stop-in, call or email me.

- Each year ALL juniors are required to take the statewide ACT in February. As it is a state mandated there is no obligation to register, registration is managed by BFHS and the Department of Public Instruction. For all intents and purposes the statewide ACT is equal to any other ACT.
- In addition to the statewide administration, ACT offers seven national test dates. A student can choose to sign up for a national test date. Since taking a test on a national test day is a student's individual choice he or she must register for the test(s) he/she wants to take. A student can register at act.org
 - A student can take the ACT multiple times.
 - Any age student can take the ACT, but his or her score only counts for college admission if the test is taken during junior or senior year.
- Deciding when to take the ACT is somewhat a matter of strategy and comfort. Many students will take the ACT for the first time during the statewide administration. Students make this choice for a few main reasons:
 1. The exam is free.
 2. The exam is part-way into second semester so students have the benefit of all the learning that happens during junior year up until test time.
 3. Several national test dates exist after the statewide test, so a student who desires a re-take has many opportunities to improve his or her score.

On the other hand, some students opt to take the test early and often. The reason for this strategy is to develop comfort and familiarity with the ACT in terms of content, test-taking strategies, and time management.

I hope this information is helpful as you make your academic and career plans. Have a great day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mr. Paul". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.