

# Standardized Tests

2010-2011

## Registration Deadlines

Students are required to register for all admission tests ahead of time, and the testing agencies are very strict about registration deadlines, which are well in advance of the testing dates. Testing centers fill up early, so register for the tests as early as possible. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches may also qualify for PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP test fee waivers. If a college-bound senior or junior is planning to take the PSAT, ACT, SAT and/or an AP test, please contact a school counselor at least two weeks before the test registration deadline for a fee waiver application.

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### ACT

The American College Test is America's most widely accepted college entrance exam. It assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. The ACT should be taken in the spring of the junior year and/or the fall of the senior year. To register for the ACT, visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). The school code for Zachary High School is 193070.

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### AP

Through college-level Advanced Placement courses, students enter a universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school. Through AP exams, students have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

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### ASVAB

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program is intended for use with students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The program provides tools, including the test battery and interest inventory, developed by the Department of Defense to help high school students learn more about career exploration and planning. Results of the aptitude test and the interest inventory enable students to evaluate their skills, estimate performance in academic and vocational endeavors, and identify potentially satisfying careers. These results are integrated with work values to help students identify and prioritize possible career choices. To register for the ASVAB, visit the counseling office.

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### PLAN

The PLAN® program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. No registration is required.

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### PSAT

The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The test is taken primarily during the junior year. It provides firsthand practice for the SAT and gives students a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship programs. The PSAT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. To register for the PSAT, visit the counseling office.

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### SAT

The SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of the critical thinking skills needed for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well students analyze and solve problems. The test is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200—800, with two writing sub-scores for multiple-choice and the essay. To register, visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).