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September 8, 2023

Dear Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Parents and Guardians,

You may be aware that the State of Wisconsin mandates that all 9th and 10th-grade students take the PreACT Secure and 11th-grade students the ACT exam as part of Wisconsin's college readiness program, school-to-work initiative, and school accountability system. All Freshman and Sophomores will take the PreACT Secure on April 9th and Juniors will be administered the ACT on March 12th, except for students with Special Education accommodations who will have a window of time within which they must complete assessments and students with significant cognitive disabilities who will be assessed with an alternate assessment.

The ACT Plus Writing

The ACT Plus Writing consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science; and a 40-minute essay test that measures writing skills. ACT Plus Writing will be a paper and pencil test. ACT, Inc. has provided testing services for more than 50 years and their assessments have evolved over the years to reflect the nation's view of education to embrace lifelong learning and prepare students to be college and career-ready after high school graduation.

It is very important that our students are prepared and committed to doing their best on this exam. For students, there is no cost and the results of the ACT can be used to complete entrance requirements for colleges, universities, and technical colleges. The exam result also makes up a large component of our school's report card. As you can see, it is imperative that our students give their best effort when taking the tests.

PreACT Secure

PreACT Secure is very similar to ACT Plus Writing with the exception that no writing is administered.

In order to prepare our students to do their best, our district and staff are totally committed to helping prepare all of our students for these assessments through three options: 1) Methodize, 2) Requiring Juniors to take the Pre-ACT, and 3) Core curriculum ACT standard curriculum.

Methodize

To help all students succeed on the ACT, LHS has purchased **Methodize**. This ACT test preparation program has been shown to increase, on average, the ACT exam score by 3 points for students who complete all the preparatory modules included in the program. During Raider PRIDE Time, Juniors will begin completing preparatory modules in their **Methodize - ACT** account through Xello. Freshmen and Sophomores also can access Methodize through Xello as a resource.

Important Resources for Parents using the Student Log-in:

- "Blog Post: The Wrong Way to Study for the ACT" is a good handout for parents to discuss with their children. (Click the Resource Materials tab - then click Presentations...it's #16!)
- Under the Resource Materials tab - click Videos. Video #9, "Methodize 101 for Parents", offers 22:04 of valuable information for Parents!

Overall there are 73 lessons in English, math, science, and reading in the Methodize sequence. We encourage students to complete all lessons before testing in March.

What makes this time worthwhile? The Methodize methods and lessons will provide our students with the following:

- **Information**—Being informed is key. Students who are well prepared will NEVER be surprised by the test. Our students will know the kind of questions asked and the topics covered!
- **Confidence**—If students have a strong belief that they have done all they need to in order to be ready, they will do better. Perfect practice makes perfect!
- **Competitive Fire**—students pit themselves not only against the test but against others in the room. Conditions are tough, the test is long and exhausting. We're building resilience!
- **Relax**—Overcoming anxiety is crucial to success. With confidence and practice comes relaxation!
- The ACT testing is rigorous; consequently, we need to make sure our students are seeing the kind of questioning ACT uses early and often.

Pre-ACT

On September 21st, we will be requiring Juniors to take the Pre-ACT exam supervised by LHS staff.

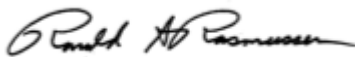
The PreACT has the same four multiple-choice sections as the regular ACT: English, Math, Reading, and Science. There is no Writing section. The test is also scored the same way as the regular ACT, on a scale from 1-36. The main difference is that it's considerably shorter as the PreACT is only 1 hour and 55 minutes long, plus a student information section.

Not only does the PreACT give students an opportunity to practice for the ACT, but it also provides students, parents, and educators with a way to identify a student's strengths and weaknesses. Approximately three weeks after the test, students will receive their score as well as the correct and student-marked answers. This will assist students to recognize their errors.

We hope to continue to offer our ACT Prep Class offered in February of 2023. This after-school opportunity is encouraged for all students. More information will be available in December.

Additional information related to the state ACT test will be sent home in January. If you have any questions about the ACT exam or the Methodize - ACT program, please contact me at 715-424-6751 or at ronald.rasmussen@wrps.net.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. Rasmussen
Principal