

Juniors Take First Step



As most juniors will say, the major sources of stress in their third year of high school are the SAT and ACT tests. Each year, two million students nationwide take the tests, which are required by hundreds of colleges as part of the admissions process. They may be two of the most important tests that they will ever take. "The tests are very stressful," said junior Mark Pelfreyman, "because they are so important for college."

The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a multiple choice test that measures the verbal and mathematical abilities a student has developed through school. The ACT (American College Test) measures a wider range of subjects than the SAT. It is divided into four sections: reading comprehension, math, science reasoning, and English.

The tests give colleges a common measure to evaluate applicants because of the different curriculum of each high school. "Both tests show how well a student has done in their high school courses," said counselor Sherry Case. "Students should take both

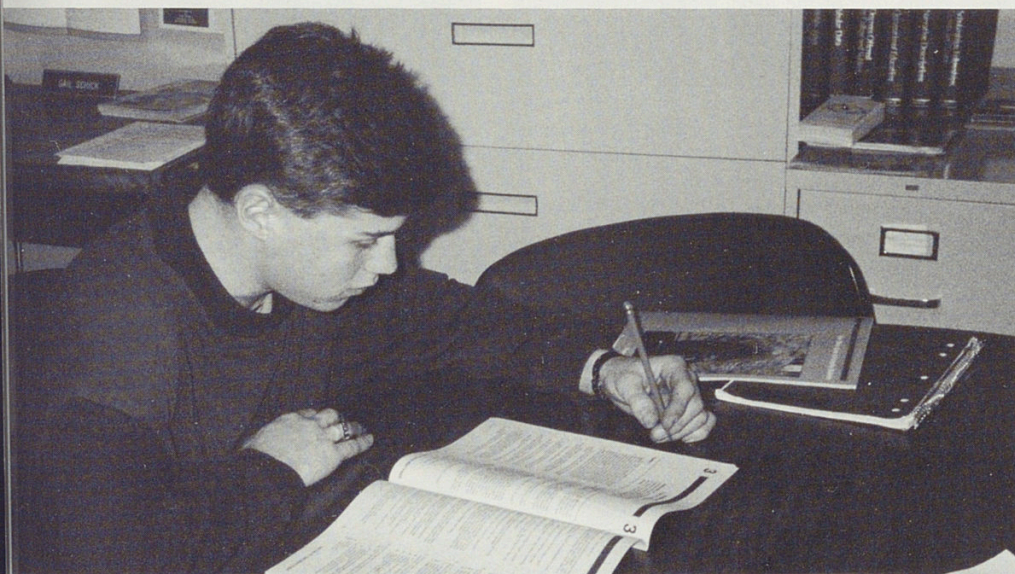
tests, though, because he may do better on one than on the other. Also, if juniors are not sure which colleges they want to apply to, they do not know what test is required."

The guidance counselor recommends that a student take the tests in the spring of their junior year. That way, if the students do not do as well as they desire, they can take them again at a later date.

Before students take the test, they must register with their counselor. Then, they should pick up the registration material and a booklet discussing how to prepare for the tests. The booklet contains sample questions with answers and explanations and advice on how to prepare for the tests.

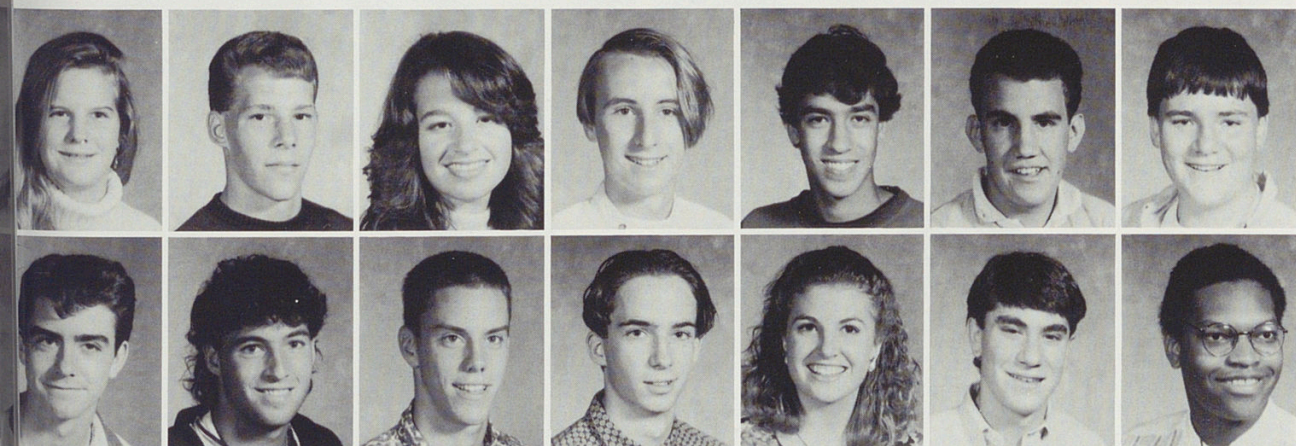
The SAT and ACT tests can be very stressful and sitting in a classroom on a Saturday morning for four hours can exercise a brain until it is about ready to quit, but after it is over a student will be relieved knowing that he or she has just taken the first step of his or her college search process.

by Jamie Jahnigan



Junior Tina Key checks out the ACT booklet found in the counselor's office. Just filling out the registration sheets can take hours. The long process is a hint of what is to come on the Saturday she goes to take the test.

Sitting in the Registrar's office, junior Timothy Samuels tries the questions on the SAT pre-test. It provides students with examples of the types of questions that will appear on the actual test.



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Christine Mallette
Clifton Mandola
Sheref Mansy
Todd Margolies
Thomas Marquette
Casey Marquette
Scott Marshall
Jeremy Martin
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