

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY



September 25, 2009

Dear 10th Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On October 14, 2009, Saint Thomas Academy will administer standardized tests to all freshmen, sophomores and juniors. The 10th graders will take the PLAN test, which is an achievement test designed to provide 10th grade students, parents, teachers and counselors with information that can be used to plan and prepare for future academic and career success. The PLAN is an excellent practice test for the ACT.

PLAN – The PLAN tests of educational development are meant to measure skills developed through early high school in four curriculum areas: English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. It is designed to provide them with an early indication of their educational progress. PLAN results can be used to make adjustments in students' course of study and to help ensure that they are prepared for what they want to do after high school.

The **English test** measures the student's understanding of the conventions of standard written English (punctuation, grammar and usage and sentence structure) and of rhetorical skills (strategy, organization and style). The test consists of four essays, or passages, each accompanied by a number of multiple-choice test items.

The **mathematics test** measures the student's level of mathematical achievement. It emphasizes the solution of practical quantitative problems that require skills encountered in many first- and second-year high school courses (pre-algebra, first-year algebra and plane geometry).

The **reading test** measures the student's level of reading comprehension. The test questions ask students to derive meaning from several reading passages by (1) referring to what is explicitly stated and (2) reasoning to determine implied meanings and to draw conclusions, comparisons, and generalizations.

The **science-reasoning test** measures the student's scientific reasoning skills. The test presents five sets of scientific information, each followed by a number of multiple-choice test items. The scientific information is presented in three different formats: data representation (graphs, tables and other schematic forms), research summaries (descriptions of several related experiments), and conflicting viewpoints (expressions of several related hypotheses or view that are inconsistent with one another).

Teachers will administer the PLAN test and results from the PLAN test will be shared with you. You can help by making sure that your son gets a good night's sleep and eats breakfast before coming to school. You may also wish to use www.planstudent.org for additional information. There is no make-up date for the PLAN, so it is important for your son to be at school on time October 14. There are no classes following the test. We plan on dismissing students by noon. Please call me at (651) 683-1522 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Celeste Heidelberg
Dean of Academics