

# SECRETS TO ACING THE TEST

INSTEAD OF KNOWING THE ACTUAL CONTENT OF THE SAT, STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF THE TEST

**M**any students will agree that junior year is the hardest year of high school. The stress of having AP classes, a job and clubs or sports can take a toll on the mental health of a lot of students. On top of this, having to study for the SAT can add a lot of stress.

Junior Chloe Rudiak studied for three and a half hours each week. She also has a job, sports and homework.

“Outside of school, I play soccer, run, lift and other physical activities as well as working at Cinnabon and The Grange pool at the end of the school year. I always have homework to complete and books to read,” Rudiak said.

While she knows that studying the academic material that’s on the test is important, Rudiak thinks there are tricks that make taking the SAT easier.

“I feel that the SATs tricks can be hacked and it is not about academic performance but knowing the ins and outs of the test in order to do well,” Rudiak said.

Junior Allison Sheets agrees that there are tricks to the SAT as well as just having academic knowledge and studying the facts.

“I’ve always found those ‘tips and tricks’ videos to help me because I easily get to a point where I may need to guess, so having as many answering strategies under my belt as possible is ideal,” Sheets said.

In addition to having to study and prepare for the SAT, juniors are starting to look at colleges they might be interested in. During COVID-19, a lot of schools stopped requiring SAT scores, but are starting to require them again in the spring of 2024 and 2025.

This implementation of required test scores has impacted a lot of students in their college hunt, including Sheets. Because she wants to get into more prestigious colleges, Sheets is aiming for a high SAT score.

“A ton of [colleges aren’t requiring test scores] but since many of them

expire at the end of 2024, and I don’t know if they’ll continue to be optional, so I still need to try [to get a good test score],” Sheets said. “It’s a reach, but I’d like a 1500+. I don’t really have a specific school but I’d love to be on the East Coast, which gets pretty prestigious.”

To get a good score, Sheets tries to study often using resources like Kahn Academy but doesn’t study as much as she would like to.

“I try to do Khan Academy’s SAT prep twice a week but it’s more like maybe once. I’m also in a SAT/ACT study group that tries to meet once a week,” Sheets said.

Rudiak has a different way of studying but hopes to have a similar outcome as Sheets in getting a good score on the test.

“I studied via a live online course with an instructor to teach us about the tricks and tips of the SAT while being able to ask him questions,” Rudiak said.

Although the SAT and other standardized tests can help measure academic performance, some students believe that it is not the best way to reflect a student’s academic performance. Rudiak agrees that the SAT is not a good way to record academic ability.

“I believe the SATs are not an accurate reflection of academic performance for all students. The SAT is a stressful test for many students and increased stress levels only make kids more prone to overthinking and making more mistakes as well as not managing their test time wisely, along with the simple fact that some students are not good test takers and it incorrectly identifies their placement,” Rudiak said.

Whether students study or not, the SAT can be a hard test, and lots of students, including Sheets and Rudiak, agree that knowing the ins and outs of the test is just as, if not more important than actually knowing the content of the test.

## SAT SCORE RANGES FOR POPULAR COLLEGES

	1170-1380	
	1080-1280	
	1240-1390	
	1270-1460	
	1000-1190	
	1140-1360	
	1280-1450	
	1120-1330	
	1350-1530	
	1090-1370	
	1350-1510	
	1510-1560	
	1290-1510	
	1320-1500	
	1470-1560	
	1270-1430	
	1110-1330	

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