

Freeman Academy Standardized Testing Information 2015-2016 School Year

1 RENAISSANCE PLACE STAR READING AND MATH

STAR Reading™ is an assessment of reading comprehension and skills readers through grade 12. STAR Reading tracks development in five domains: Word Knowledge and Skills, Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning, Analyzing Literary Text, Understanding Author's Craft, and Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text. STAR Math™ is an assessment of math achievement for students in grades 1–12. STAR Math tracks development in four domains: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry and Measurement, and Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability. FA uses the data from these tests to identify which students are reaching benchmark and which need intervention and also to identify what skills students are ready to learn.

2 PSAT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT®. It also gives students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools. This test is offered to 10th and 11th graders at Freeman Academy. The scheduled date is Wednesday, October 14, 2015.

3 DAKOTA STEP SCIENCE

The South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (Dakota STEP) measures students' mastery of the South Dakota State Academic Standards in the subject area of Science. The testing window is open during the month of April.

Grades: 5, 8, and 11

Subjects: Science

STEP has as its basic platform the new Stanford 10 Abbreviated test. The assessment provides critical feedback to educators, students and parents regarding students' academic achievement and mastery of South Dakota's academic content standards. This test has an open window of about three weeks during the month April, 2015.

It was designed to:

- Establish high expectations for the education of South Dakota students
- Identify students who may need extra help in reading, mathematics and science
- Help schools and teachers identify weaknesses in their curriculum and improve instruction in those areas
- Help teachers and parents monitor achievement
- Improve the accountability of the state's educational system

School Report Cards - <http://doe.sd.gov/reportcard/>

4 SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

This assessment measures student achievement and growth in English Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11. South Dakota students took a pilot test for the school year 2013-2014, so no data/scores will be

reported to schools and students. The pilot test was conducted to ensure accuracy and fairness of questions in preparation of full implementation during the 2014-2015 school year. The testing window for Grades 3-8 is March 9 – May 6, 2015 and the window for Grade 11 is March 29 – May 6, 2015.

5 SD MY LIFE

SDMyLife.com is a website aimed at helping South Dakota students research, select and plan for a career. Using the site, students can take interest and ability assessments in order to learn which careers might make a good match for them. They can explore careers by cluster, keyword or school subject. Students can also research postsecondary education and training options, build their own career portfolios and find out about scholarship opportunities. Parents can have access to view their students' accounts. For account information, please contact Nicolle Timmerman at nhtimmerman@freemanacademy.org.

6 ACT

The ACT test 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. For more information visit the ACT link on act.org

<http://www.act.org/aap/>

ACT Registration

Register for the ACT at actstudent.org

https://services.actstudent.org/OA_HTML/actibeCAcdLogin.jsp

ACT Test Dates

ACT testing dates are posted on actstudent.org

<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

7 SAT

The SAT is a globally recognized college admission test that lets students show colleges what they know and how well they can apply that knowledge. It tests knowledge of reading, writing and math, subjects that are taught every day in high school classrooms. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school, and almost all colleges and universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.

Taking the SAT is the first step in finding the right college-the place where a student can further develop skills and pursue passions. But SAT scores are just one of many factors that colleges consider when making their admission decisions. High school grades are also very important. In fact, the combination of high school grades and SAT scores is the best predictor of academic success in college. For more information about the SAT visit the link on sat.collegeboard.com

<http://sat.collegeboard.com/why-sat>

SAT Registration

Register for the SAT at

sat.collegeboard.com <http://sat.collegeboard.com/login?applicationId=115&destinationpage=https://nsat.collegeboard.com/satweb/login.jsp&view=NSAT>

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