

## **STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS**

### **IOWA ASSESSMENTS:**

The Iowa Assessments are high school achievement tests that measure student performance in reading, vocabulary, math, social studies and science. Student scores are established as a national percentile rank (NPR) and a national standardized score (NSS). The purpose of the NPR score is to compare each student with students across the nation. Students must score at the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile or above to be considered “proficient” in the State of Iowa. Being proficient in the areas of reading, math and science is required to be eligible for most concurrent credit opportunities. The purpose of the NSS is to provide an indication of growth for each student. This assessment will be given at the high school in March to freshman, sophomores, and juniors.

### **ACT:**

The American College Test is used by four year colleges and universities for admission and college course placement purposes. It measures the skills necessary for college work in english, math, reading and science reasoning. The ACT is an optional test offered six times throughout the year at off site locations. Students are responsible for their own registration available online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). This website also has information about college planning and test preparation. It is recommended students take the ACT in the spring of their junior year. This gives students the opportunity to re-take the exam in the fall of their senior year if they choose. Mid-Prairie will host an ACT test prep course in January or February. Either the ACT or the SAT is required for admission to most four year colleges.

### **PSAT/NMSQT:**

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is used for the National Merit Scholarship competition. It is a practice SAT test which measures verbal and mathematical reasoning. This is an optional test for students in grade 11. Students are responsible for the cost of the test which will be administered at Mid-Prairie in the fall.

### **COMPASS:**

The COMPASS test is an untimed computer based test often required by two year community colleges to evaluate academic skills in math, reading and writing. The COMPASS test is generally used as a placement exam to determine the appropriate college level courses for students. Students are encouraged to reach proficiency levels to avoid taking remedial core classes at the community college. The COMPASS test is offered at the community colleges or can be taken at scheduled times at Mid-Prairie. Students are encouraged to check the ACT website at [www.act.org/compass](http://www.act.org/compass) for test taking tips.

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