**SAT, ACT & AP Talking Points for 2015**

**SAT**

**(Scholastic Aptitude Test, Scholastic Assessment Test, SAT Reasoning Test, and now simply the SAT):**

1. 7% increase in number of test takers (mostly female and more Asian and Black students).
2. Show page 7 & 8 of “NHS Integrated Summary Report” as slides:
	1. **7 point drop in Critical Reading** (females increased 8 pts; males decreased 20 pts);
	2. **10 point drop in Math** (females and males decreased but mostly males);
	3. **4 point drop in Writing** (females increased; males decreased).
3. Norwood results are below Mass Public School results (by 13, 24 , & 11 points) but above Nation, except for math (by 5, (-1), & 11 points).
4. **Critical Reading** Performance by Ethnic Group compared to last year: Asian, Hispanic, and White students did less well, and Black students did better.
5. **Mathematics** Performance by Ethnic Group compared to last year: Asian and White students did less well, and Black and Hispanic students did better.
6. **Writing** Performance by Ethnic Group compared to last year: White students did less well, and Asian, Black, and Hispanic students did better.
7. Fewer students took the **SAT subject tests** (n=17, 47% drop)(56 in 2013, 32 in 2014).

**Action Steps:**

* Build staff awareness of March 2016 changes to SAT Reading, Writing & Language, Math, and Essay by sharing information from <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test>
* Focus instruction on the “college readiness” skills required for the SAT and PARCC/MCAS tests as specified at link above. Continue emphasizing writing across the curriculum.
* Administer the PSAT to students in grades 9-11 for exposure to the newly designed SAT (at no cost).
* Many core academic departments will be attending a SAT info session about the newly designed test on one of our PD days. This is a presentation provided by Kaplan Test Prep.
* Acquire high school math resources aligned to common core frameworks that also contain sample standardized test questions and SAT-like questions.
* Embed practice SAT questions into regular classroom instruction.

**ACT:**

**(previously the American College Testing)**

1. 87% increase in number of students taking the ACT (2014-2015 #s)(39-**73**).
2. Average scores have increased:
	1. **English**: 21.6 to 22.4 (out of 36)
	2. **Mathematics**: 23.2 to 23.3
	3. **Reading**: 22.9 to 23.6
	4. **Science**: 22.1 to 23.3
	5. **Composite**: 22.6 to 23.3
3. We continue to improve our percents and greatly narrowed the District-State gap in percent of ACT-Tested Students Ready for College Level Coursework (2014 v. 2015).
	1. **English Composition**: 77-85 to 81-85%. Closing gap from 8 to 4 points.
	2. **Algebra**: 64-72 to 67-71%. Closing gap from 8 to 4 points.
	3. **Social Science**: 49-65 to 62-67%. Closing gap from 16 to 5 points.
	4. **Biology**: 44-58 to 58-61%. Closing gap from 14 to 3 points.
	5. **Meeting All 4 above**: 31-47 to 44-51%. Closing gap from 16 to 7 points.

**Action Steps:**

* Members of the guidance staff explain the ACT format and content in both Junior and Senior Seminars. Students can access a brief “quiz” that allows them to see what assessment (ACT or SAT) is more appropriate for them based on their skill base.

**Advanced Placement (AP):**

1. There was a 9% increase in the number of students taking APs (106-116)(a few more Asian, Black & Hispanic students participated). 22 more AP tests were taken.
2. Compared to last year, there was no % increase in the overall # of 3, 4, or 5s (n=133)(females showed 6% increase; males showed 7% decrease) though more students earned 3 , 4, or 5 on an AP exam (83-90).
3. Exams that showed a **decrease in test takers** (2014-2015 #s): Biology (15-2), English Language & Composition (5-0), Mathematics: Calculus AB (34-30), Spanish Language (7-0), Statistics (13-6).
4. Exams that showed an **increase in test takers** (2014-2015 #s): Computer Science A (1-6), English Literature and Composition (16-33), History: United States (53-59), Physics 1 (0-24), Psychology (6-12).
5. Areas of Strength (% and # of 3, 4, & 5s):
	1. **English Literature & Composition**: 90% (30/33)
	2. **US History**: 70% (41/59)
	3. **Math Calculus AB**: 71% (21/30)
	4. **Psychology**: 100% (12/12)
	5. **Statistics**: 100% (6/6)
6. Areas of Growth:
	1. **Physics 1** (new test): 17% (4/24)

**Action Steps:**

* Maintain & build on areas of strength above,
* Continue to advocate for funding needed to build a strong middle school foreign language program in grades 6-8 so more HS students can be prepared to take the AP foreign language tests.