

## North High School Test Schedule 2007 – 2008

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Day</u>        | <u>Event</u>  |
|-------------|-------------------|---|
| October 17  | Wednesday         | PSAT (Grade 11 Optional)  |
| October 23  | Tuesday           | PLAN Test   |
| April 15    | Tuesday           | MCA/Writing Grad Test Gr. 9   |
| April 15-16 | Tuesday-Wednesday | MCA 2-day Test for Gr. 10 Reading / Gr. 11 Math                     |
| May 5-16    |                   | Advanced Placement Course Exams for students enrolled in AP Courses |

**Student academic achievement is a high priority for everyone.** One means to measure student learning and school effectiveness is through standardized tests. While not a complete picture of a school's effectiveness or a student's academic progress, standardized test results can be useful as additional indicators of areas of strength and areas that need improvement for both students and school.

### Here are some of the common standardized tests students take at North:

**BASIC SKILLS TESTS (BST's)** – Successfully passing these tests is a State graduation requirement for all students in graduating classes before 2010. Current grades 11-12 cannot get their high school diploma without having passed the BST's in Reading, Math and Written composition. Students have multiple opportunities to re-take the BST's during their high school years if they did not pass one or more of the tests when they were first given in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **Re-test dates are listed on the North calendar in November, February and April.** Parents or students in grades 11 or 12 who are unsure of your status on the BST's should check with the Guidance Department at 651-748-6030.

**MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS (MCA)** - Students in the Class of 2010 – this year's sophomores – and all later graduating classes no longer take Basic Standards Tests. Instead, they will take MCA tests. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take the MCA Writing test in April. They will take the MCA Reading exam in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and MCA Math in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. They must pass all three MCA tests to graduate. Current grade 11 will take the MCA Reading and Math tests, too, but only their BST – not their MCA - scores will affect graduation. All MCA scores are used to determine if North is making 'Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)' as defined by the federal 'No Child Left Behind (NCLB)' Act.

**PLAN TEST** – The PLAN test is a national exam administered to all ISD 622 district 10<sup>th</sup> graders in October for the purpose of assisting students in exploring career options and/or future schooling and to assess achievement and students skills. Four academic areas are assessed: Reading, Language/English, Math/Quantitative Thinking and Science Reasoning. Student results are placed on a 1-32 scale. PLAN test results are generally a good indicator of later results on the ACT test administered by the same testing organization.

**ACT** – This is the primary college entrance exam taken by North's college bound seniors, usually on a Saturday at various times during the fall and winter. Colleges and Universities in the Midwest most often ask for ACT exams during their admissions process. Approximately 67% of North seniors voluntarily take this exam. Students are mailed their individual scores on a scale of 1-36. Students are tested in the areas of English, Math, Reading and Science. Summary results are reported to schools in August after students graduate.

**PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (PSAT)** – Interested students can take this exam during October of their junior year. The PSAT tests student achievement in verbal, written communication and math skills. Approximately 1/3rd of North's juniors take this exam. The PSAT serves as the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship program administered by the College Board.

**SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TESTS (SAT)** – This college readiness/entrance exam is taken by only a few North students each year. The SAT measures student's verbal and math skills on a scale up to 800 per test. A perfect exam score of 1600 is rare but quite an accomplishment. Colleges and universities on the East and West coasts most frequently use this College Board exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS** - AP exams are administered nationally during the month of May in several curriculum areas. Students are scored on a scale of 1-5 and those scoring at the highest levels (3-4-5) can receive college credit at certain universities and colleges. The College Board administers the Advanced Placement program and exams.