

## **LANDMARK SCHOOL STATEMENT on SAT/ACT Testing**

### **Philosophy**

Landmark School's primary educational focus is to offer students with language-based learning disabilities intensive remedial, skill and strategy based learning in a highly structured and supportive environment. The time and energy devoted to these practices precludes an exhaustive focus on increasing SAT/ACT scores by devoting students and teacher energy in intensive preparation for these standardized tests. While we will do some prep work to familiarize students with these tests, we encourage students and parents to place a primary emphasis on daily academics which is the major criteria in the admission process for most colleges.

The billion dollar testing industry that surrounds these tests and the anxiety that historically envelops students as they face the SAT or ACT is unfortunate. In fact each year, more colleges are dropping the SAT as a requirement and instead focusing on the student's performance in school which is more widely perceived as a better indicator of success at the college level. While we are not dismissing the SAT or ACT, Landmark believes that these tests do not define our students. Students with language-based learning disabilities often have difficulty with standardized testing. Given this, we agreed to bring the SAT onto campus so that students could take them in a familiar surrounding to alleviate some of the test anxiety that can accompany these events. However, philosophically, we will not unduly sacrifice educational time and energy in preparing for or administering these tests.

### **Administration**

Landmark School's policy has been to administer the SAT and ACT in the second half of the junior year and again in the first half of the senior year. While there are national dates for these tests, Landmark only administers on these given dates. The SAT II subject tests are administered in the fall for seniors who may be considering highly competitive colleges that require this test.

It is important to note that Landmark School is not a test center, it is a school site, and therefore we can only administer these tests to Landmark students. Past practice from the College Board approves Landmark students for extended time. If a student/parent requests accommodations over and above what our students typically receive, it is imperative that extensive diagnostic testing results and reports from certified professionals be provided by the student/parent to the SAT College Board or ACT office. Parents and students must coordinate these requests. Requests for testing accommodations, other than those normally granted to Landmark, need to be delivered to the College Board well in advance of the test dates. The SAT College Board /ACT office determines the eligibility for any additional accommodations. Landmark School has no control or input concerning the decisions made by these entities.

Should a parent want to have the SAT/ACT administered to their child, beyond what Landmark School offers, it is the responsibility of the parent to complete the registration and seek alternative test sites

Landmark utilizes testing facilities that are conducive and available to accommodate the testing needs of its students. The tests are administered and proctored by Landmark professional staff. Because of SAT accommodations and their time constraints, the Guidance Office administers these tests over a two day period (Saturday and Sunday)

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