**2011-2012 Assessment Calendar**

(For specific dates see Schedule Star Calendar)

7th Grade Assessments(s)

* MEAP—October
	+ Michigan Educational Assessment Program covering Reading, Writing, & Mathematics

8th Grade Assessment(s)

* MEAP—October
	+ Michigan Educational Assessment Program covering Reading, Science, & Mathematics

9th Grade Assessment(s)

* MEAP—October
	+ Michigan Educational Assessment Program coving Social Studies
* Explore Exam
	+ Explore is a pre-ACT exam that helps students choose high school courses that will get them ready for college, find careers that match their interests, show them the subjects in which they need to improve, help them see which subjects are most important for certain careers and of course, provide great standardized test experience.

10th Grade Assessment(s)

* PLAN Exam
	+ PLAN is a pre-ACT exam that covers the same subjects and gives students an estimated ACT score. The PLAN test lets students know if they are on track for college, points out their academic strengths and areas that need improvement, helps students find careers that match their interests, connects them with more colleges interested in them, and of course is great standardized test experience.

11th Grade Assessment(s)

* PSAT—October
	+ The PSAT is an *optional* exam available to students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. This exam is great standardized exam practice and also is the National Merritt Scholarship Qualifying exam, a very competitive national scholarship competition.
* ACT Plus Writing—March
	+ ACT is one of the most important standardized exams students will take during their high school careers. This is their college admissions exam. All juniors in the state of Michigan will be taking this exam on this day.
		- There are many ways to prepare for this exam, including checking ACT practice tests and books out from the guidance office, doing free online exams at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), reviewing previous years Explore & PLAN exams, and more.
* WorkKeys—March
	+ “The most advanced measure of workplace skills. The WorkKeys is a job assessment system that helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain a high-performance workforce.”
		- This is also an exam developed by ACT and resources to prepare are available online at [www.act.org/workkeys](http://www.act.org/workkeys)
* Michigan Merritt Exam (MME)—March
	+ The MME is the last day of this 3 day series of testing for juniors. This exam tests students’ on their knowledge of the core courses they have taken in high school based on the Michigan Merritt Curriculum and assist the high school in meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP).

**10 Tips for Terrific Test Taking**

(From Study Guides & Strategies webpage: http://www.studygs.net/tsttak1.htm)

 **Analyze how you did on a similar test in the past.**
Review your previous tests and sample tests provided by your teacher.
Each test you take prepares you for the next one!

 **Arrive early for tests.**
List what you need beforehand to avoid panic.
Good preparation prepares you for the task at hand.

 **Be comfortable but alert.**
Choose a comfortable location with space enough that you need
Don't slouch; maintain good posture.

 **Stay relaxed and confident.**
Keep a good attitude and remind yourself that you are going to do your best.
If you find yourself panicking, take a few deep breaths
Don't talk to other students right before: stress can be contagious.

 **Read directions carefully!**
and avoid careless errors.

 **If there is time, quickly look through the test for an overview.**
Scan for keywords. If permitted, jot any notes that come to mind.

 **Answer questions in a strategic order:**
Easy questions first to build confidence.
Then those with the most point value.
On objective tests, eliminate obvious incorrect answers.
On essay tests, broadly outline your answer and sequence of points.

 **Review! if you have time.**
Resist the urge to leave when you complete the exam--check if you have answered all the questions, not made any errors or mis-marked any answers.

 **Change answers to questions if you erred, or misread the question!**
You may also find information in the test that will correct a previous answer.

 **Decide on and adopt study strategies that work best for you.**
Review where you succeed and where you are challenged.