

ACT Prep
Course Syllabus
Mrs. Fletcher – Room 212

Course Description: ACT Prep is a class provided for college bound juniors and seniors. It provides students with the opportunity to review skills and become familiar with the format of the American College Testing Program. The ACT exam consists of math, English, reading, and science reasoning and this class will focus on the skills necessary to achieve success in these areas. The rising importance and emphasis on ACT scores for college admission and scholarships can mean added pressure to students. The goal of this course is to not only improve their ACT scores, but to make students feel more comfortable and confident in any test taking situations.

Instructional Philosophy: This course will be totally devoted to improving ACT composite scores. My goal is to help all students achieve a composite score of 21 (or better), which is the state average. Students will be given a practice test in all four areas (math, English, reading, and science reasoning). They will then receive instruction on how to improve in these areas. ACT practice tests will be given periodically to check for improvement. Hopefully, after this process, students will be prepared to take the actual ACT exam at some point during the semester to produce their maximum score.

Major Course Goals:

1. Practice taking the ACT exam.
2. Differentiate between correct English sentences and those with errors.
3. Investigate attack strategies for problem solving and elementary algebra.
4. Employ problem solving strategies to common intermediate algebra and coordinate geometry.
5. Relate problem solving strategies of key principles of geometry and trigonometry.
6. Apply reading skills.
7. Review scientific reasoning.

Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities: CHS has purchased a computer module that will specifically focus on preparing students for the ACT. Lessons will target a student goal and help them to meet that individual goal. Other classroom activities will include, but are not limited to lecture, homework assignments, ACT practice tests and activities, quizzes, reading assignments, and a major research project.

Course Assessment Plan: Tests, quizzes, classroom assignments, homework, projects, and participation will be worth 80% of your quarter grade. A comprehensive final exam will be worth 20% of your quarter grade. Test and quiz grades will be based on making a 21 or better on the ACT exam.

Classroom Expectations:

Students should be in the classroom when the bell rings. Tardies will be given if this policy is not followed.

Students will work on bell ringer activity as soon as the bell rings daily.

Students should bring required materials to class: Always have a pencil or pen and paper.

Students should complete assignments correctly, accurately, and on time: It is your responsibility to find out what you miss when you are absent.

Comply with Network User Agreement: There will be no leniency afforded to anyone who violates any portion of the Central R-III Acceptable Use Policy.

Respect each other and the ideas of others. Don't belittle someone simply because you don't agree. Be polite.

Keep classroom neat and clean: Don't bring food or drinks into the classroom. Clean up after yourself.

Supplies and Materials Needed: Make sure you bring pencil or pen, paper, and any ACT materials we are using to class. You may want to keep a separate notebook or folder with ACT materials and notes in it. A scientific calculator is strongly recommended for this class.

Required/Recommended Readings:

Students will be required to complete their 100-page-per-semester reading requirement with materials used for the reading portion of the ACT. Each student should always bring outside reading material to class in case he/she finishes work before the end of class.

Recommended Authors:

Karen Kingsbury

Nicholas Sparks

Lillian Jackson Braun

Debbie Macomber

Homework Policy and Grading Scale: Please refer to the Student Handbook for the CHS Homework Policy. The grading scale is as follows:

95-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-94	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

Extra Help: If you need extra help in this class, I am usually available after school until 3:30 pm. You may also set up appointments with me for additional help. My PASS schedule will be announced at the appropriate times.

Time and Place to be Reached by Parent: My e-mail address is jfletcher@centralr3.org. My planning period is from 12:18 – 1:03 pm daily. You may also leave a message for me at 431-2616 ext. 4137 and I will return your call as soon as possible. My School Notes page can be accessed from the high school Web site at www.centralr3.org/chs/Teachers.html.