



Jim Greenwald, Principal

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Junior Students and their Parents or Guardians:

All Junior students at Granite City High School have a wonderful opportunity to take a university/college math placement exam called COMPASS. Most universities or colleges have their incoming Freshmen take some form of placement exam in math. COMPASS, which is developed by ACT, is one of these tests and used at such institutions as Illinois State University, Saint Louis University, and Southwestern Illinois College. This opportunity is being sponsored by Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) due to a college readiness grant and at no cost to the student or district.

During the week of December 5th, Junior students will be able to sit down at a computer here at the high school, work through the math portion of SWIC's placement exam, and receive their score immediately with a brief explanation from SWIC's staff about what their score means. The benefits for the student taking this exam are:

- 1) Having the opportunity to take a computer based exam which many have never taken before but will most likely encounter at the college or university level.
- 2) Gauging where the student is currently with his/her math knowledge. This may be helpful when considering what math course to take next year as a senior.
- 3) Exposing Juniors to multiple-choice questions in preparation for the ACT portion of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) in April. COMPASS is an ACT product.

The scores will not be stored in any identifiable way by SWIC so their placement score now cannot be used at a later date if they would decide to attend that institution. The scores will be provided to the Math Department at Granite City High School and may be reviewed when making curriculum decisions.

If you have any questions about this exam, feel free to contact either Mrs. Cindy Gagich, Vice-Principal/Curriculum Director, or Ms. Denise Albrecht, Math Department Chair. If you would like more information about the COMPASS test, you can go to the ACT website at the following address:

<http://www.act.org/compass/student/index.html>.

Respectfully,

Denise Albrecht
Granite City High School Math Department Chair
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