WEEKLY HAWK TALK

YOUR WEEK. YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR HAWK UPDATE.

On Campus Activities not to miss this week:

Monday, September 21st
- Girls Volleyball v Amphi 4, 5 and 6pm
- We are hosting Emily Gray's track meet at 4:30

Tuesday, September 22nd:
- TVHS Student Movie Night in the Commons 6:15pm. **Tickets are $5 through GoFan**

Wednesday, September 23rd:
- 140th Celebration of Tanque Verde Unified School District 5-8pm in the Commons

Thursday, September 24th:
- Homecoming pep rally

Friday, September 25th:
- NO SCHOOL TODAY (TEACHER PLANNING DAY)
- Varsity Football v Santa Rita for Homecoming



Saturday, September 26th:
- Homecoming Dance in the MPR 7-10pm (**Tickets for sale on GoFan**)

Note: We do not have school on Friday, September 25th for a teacher planning day. While our office will be open, our teachers will be using this day to work in their teams to plan. Students have this day of school off.



Reminder why we have these days: we eliminated the half days during the school year to account for 2 full day planning days for teachers and a total of 4 long weekends for kids/families

The Homecoming Dance is coming Saturday, September 26 from 7–10 PM in the TVHS MPR—and it's time to make your plans!

Tickets are $25 on **GoFan** — your phone is your ticket!

Bringing a non-TVHS guest? Pick up a guest pass in the front office and return it completed by Wednesday, September 23.

Dance Attire is semi-formal to formal. No sweats, work out wear, shorts,, sweatshirts, or casual jeans (Dressy Western is okay!) Your ticket includes snacks, drinks, photo booth & coat check. Suit jackets and ties are not necessary nor required.

Don't wait until the magic carpet is leaving the station. Grab your ticket, get that guest form handled, and get ready for Homecoming 2026: Arabian Nights!

I made this little guide for our freshmen families about navigating their first high school dance...but I wanted to share it with all families as well! What I really love about a high school like Tanque Verde is that our students have opportunities to learn and grow from world class teachers, but also learn and grow skills outside of the classroom--navigating social situations including dances and dating are a really big deal too! I invite you to take these opportunities to have conversations with your kids about scenarios that they could see and how to navigate them. Preparing our students for possible situations helps them act with caution and clarity as opposed to being impulsive, which too no fault of their own, is a common action by our teenagers.



Understanding Your Child's Practice ACT Score Report

All students were asked to pick up their ACT report on Tuesday to bring home and share with you. If you have not seen it, please ask to see it! If they did not pick it up, they can still do so in the TVHS Office.

At Tanque Verde High School, we believe assessment data should be used as a tool—not a label. A Practice ACT score gives students, families, and teachers valuable information about current academic strengths, areas for continued growth, and readiness for the ACT students will take during the spring of their junior year.
For our 9th graders, this score is an early baseline. There is a great deal of time for academic growth between freshman and junior year, and these results can help students begin identifying the skills they should continue developing.

For our 11th graders, the Practice ACT provides an especially valuable preview of where they currently stand as they prepare for the official ACT this spring. It can help students determine where focused preparation during the coming months may make the greatest difference.

Most importantly, a practice score is not a ceiling. It is a starting point.

What Should You Look at With Your Child?

When reviewing the score report, we encourage families to look beyond the overall composite score.

Talk with your child about:

- Their composite ACT score
- Their individual scores in English, Math, Reading, and Science
- Areas in which they performed particularly well
- Areas where additional practice or academic support may be helpful
- Whether they met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks
- A reasonable goal for their next ACT or Practice ACT

Students can—and often do—make meaningful gains through challenging coursework, strong classroom instruction, regular reading, intentional practice, and sustained effort.

We see this growth firsthand at TVHS. In our most recent ACT results, more than 90% of our students met or exceeded their previously predicted ACT score, and approximately 30% exceeded that prediction. That is an important reminder that early scores do not determine where a student will ultimately finish.

Why Does the ACT Matter?

Although many colleges have adopted test-optional admission policies, ACT performance can still be valuable for college admission, honors programs, course placement, and merit scholarship opportunities.

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are designed to identify whether students are on track to succeed in common first-year college courses. Students who meet a benchmark have approximately:

- A 50% chance of earning a B or higher in the corresponding first-year college course
- A 75% chance of earning a C or higher in that course

ACT research has also demonstrated a strong connection between meeting college-readiness benchmarks and successfully completing a postsecondary degree.

The goal is not simply to earn a particular test score. The skills measured by the ACT—reading comprehension, writing and language skills, mathematical reasoning, analysis, and problem solving—are also skills students will need in college, career training, and the workplace.

What Do ACT Scores Mean?

There is no single “good” ACT score. The score a student needs depends greatly on his or her goals.

Arizona Universities

Students scoring in the mid-20s and above are generally building a strong academic profile for Arizona's public universities, including the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University.

Higher ACT scores, when paired with strong grades and rigorous coursework, may also strengthen opportunities for honors programs and merit scholarships.

Highly Selective Colleges & Universities

Highly selective universities frequently enroll students with ACT scores in the 32–36 range.

At institutions such as Stanford, Duke, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, Rice, MIT, and Ivy League universities, however, an ACT score is only one part of the application. Successful applicants typically also demonstrate exceptional grades, rigorous coursework, meaningful extracurricular involvement, leadership, strong essays, and recommendations.

No ACT score guarantees admission—but strong performance can demonstrate a high level of academic readiness.

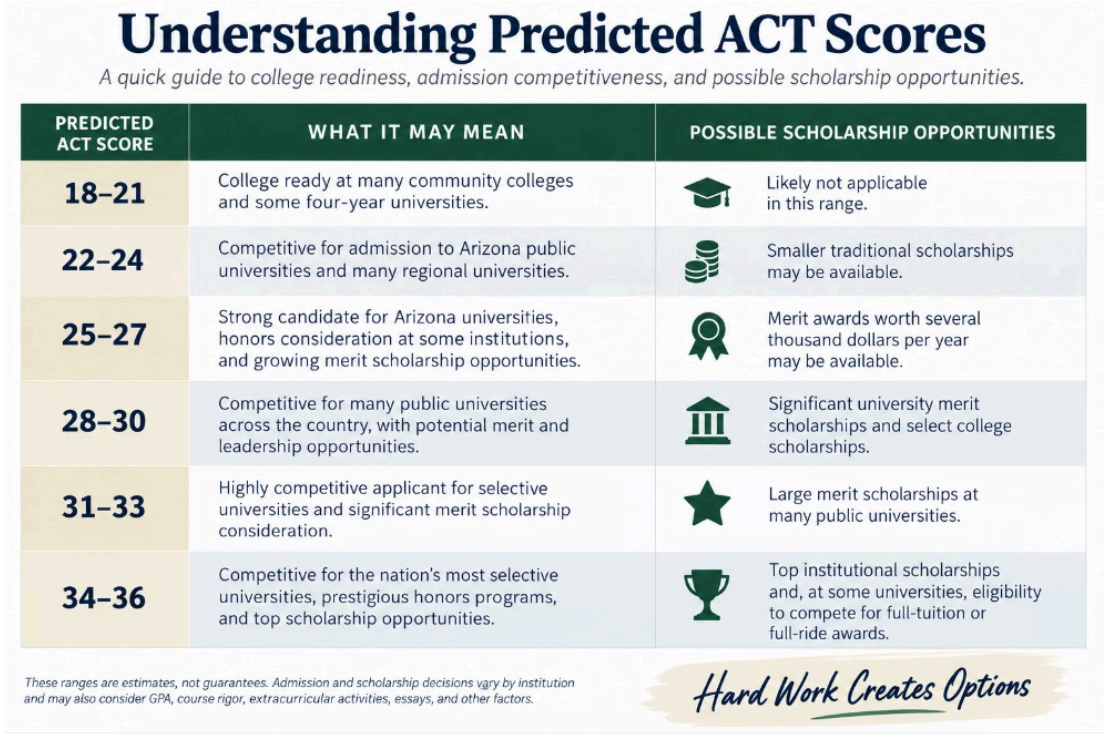
Merit Scholarship Opportunities

ACT scores can also play a role in merit scholarship consideration at many colleges and universities.

Scholarship requirements vary significantly by institution and may also depend upon:

- GPA
- Course rigor
- Residency
- Application deadlines
- Class rank
- The college's individual scholarship policies

Even a few additional ACT points can sometimes make a meaningful difference in the opportunities available to a student.



The TVHS Advantage: We Practice Before It Counts

One of the advantages of attending Tanque Verde High School is that we do not wait until junior year to begin talking about college readiness.

TVHS students have multiple opportunities throughout high school to take ACT-aligned assessments and monitor their growth.
This allows students, teachers, and families to identify strengths, recognize areas needing attention, set goals, and provide support before the official ACT and before college applications begin.
Because these assessments provide such valuable information, students who miss scheduled Practice ACT testing or do not make a genuine attempt will be expected to complete a make-up assessment.

We ask families to help us reinforce a simple message:
The practice matters.

Taking these assessments seriously gives students much better information about what they know, what they still need to learn, and what they can do next.

A Great Conversation to Have at Home

Rather than focusing only on “What score did you get?” consider asking:

1. What are you proud of?
2. Which section surprised you?
3. Where do you think you could improve?
4. What would you like your score to be next time?
5. What is one thing you could do between now and then to get there?

Please remember that your child's current ACT score is not a ceiling—it is simply a snapshot of where they are today.

For a freshman, there are years of learning and growth still ahead.

For a junior, there are still important months available to prepare intentionally before the official ACT.

Every point of growth can expand future options. We encourage you to celebrate what your child has already accomplished while helping them identify a meaningful next goal.

Thank you for partnering with us as we prepare every Hawk for success after high school. We will be doing this practice two more times this year.

Help Us Celebrate This Week!





#HawkYeah

Amy Cislak

Dr. Amy Cislak, Principal

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