

## Tests and Descriptions

**FastBridge (FAST)** are benchmark reading and math assessments used with Primary and Elementary students. The benchmarks are typically administered three times within the school year and take 5 minutes for benchmark testing and 15 - 25 minutes for online portions in both reading and math.

**The PSAT (Preliminary SAT)** test measures reading, writing and language, and math skills. It is optional for high school students. There is a fee to take and the test takes approximately 3.5 hours. Taking the PSAT is the only route to enter into the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)** test is a multiple aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. This optional test is given to Juniors and takes approximately 3 hours. The test is free of charge to interested students.

**ACCESS/ELL (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English Language Learners)** is a large-scale assessment of English Language proficiency based on the Minnesota Standards for English Language Development developed by WIDA Consortium. Students are assessed in the 4 domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

**ACT** is a standardized, timed test that measures a student's skills in five core areas: English (45 min), math (60 min), reading (40 min), science (35 min), and writing (40 min). Students take the ACT so that they can submit their scores to colleges as part of the college application process.

**MTAS (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills)** is an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards aligned to extensions of the Minnesota Academic Standards (MCA) representing a reduction of the breadth and depth of the standards. Only students meeting eligibility requirements are eligible to take this assessment. Students are given as much time as needed to complete the MTAS with teacher's facilitation.

**MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments)** are the math, reading and science tests that Minnesota uses to comply with the requirements of the Federal Department of Education. While the MCA can range from 2.5 to 4.5 hours in length (dependent on the subject area and the grade level), students are given as much time as they need to complete the assessments.

**AP (Advanced Placement)** final tests are given in specific subject areas to gain college credit for the high school course. These tests are typically completed in one class session.

\*Note: No single assessment gives the full picture of a student as a learner. The teachers and staff at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools use a variety of instructional methods, as well as, various formal and informal measures of assessment to gather data. This information is used to better inform both students and teachers about group and individual student strengths and needs. The ultimate goal is to help all to be as successful as possible.