

# LMHS Students Ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in State

---

---

One test, four sections, one hundred seventy five minutes, two hundred fifteen questions, eleven years of preparation: the ACT. Every junior in the state of Kentucky has to take it and many colleges require it for admittance and scholarships, so what's so special about it? For one, it is a tool to assess how well a school is doing and how prepared their juniors are for entering college. The ACT has what are called benchmarks, or "the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test" to indicate how well they will do in a college course on the same material. In other words, it can predict the probability of a student getting at least a fifty or seventy five percent in a college class, information that can tell teachers and principals if their students are college ready.

The higher percentage of students meeting the benchmarks, the better it is for those students because it shows that more kids are ready to take college classes and pass them. For their junior year of high school, the current Lloyd Memorial seniors out-did the benchmark standards. In three of the four ACT subject areas, these seniors had a higher percentage pass than the state did as a whole. "Let the numbers speak for themselves," Principal John Reihemann said.

The current Lloyd Memorial seniors were ranked forty-second in the state out of 231 public schools based on their ACT composite score. According to the ACT Profile Report for Lloyd High School, the class's average composite score rose by 0.7 from the previous year's juniors, going from 18.7 to a 19.4, well above the state average of 18.5. The composite score raise is accompanied by raises of at least 0.5 points in every subject area, with the largest increase in score being 0.9 in reading. While these score increases are seemingly small, it spells out great improvement for the students at Lloyd. It means that as a whole, more students are answering more questions correctly, questions like "Which of the following is equivalent to  $\sin\theta \csc(-\theta)$  whenever  $\sin\theta\csc(-\theta)$  is defined?" that can be found on the ACT website: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). It means that as a whole, the student body is doing better in english when it comes to their rhetorical skills and their grammar usage, in reading when it comes to their referring and reasoning skills, in science when it comes to interpreting data and analyzing charts and graphs, and in math when it comes to understanding trigonometry, geometry, algebra and anything else they have learned by the end of their junior year. These improvements that excite the Lloyd staff. Assistant Principal Chad Molley said that he takes a certain amount of pride in how the students performed. "You can see it, it is concrete and on paper."

From an administrator's point of view, the accomplishments from the '09-'10 juniors are gratifying but they also shows signs that there is still room for improvement: on both the school and student parts. When it comes to the results of the ACT, Reihemann looks at three things that show, on a broader scale, how Lloyd is doing as a whole: the composite scores, the type of student population(in terms of the percent using free or reduced lunch), and the per pupil expenditure(the amount of money a school spends on a student per year-this influences class size, technology, supplies, etc...) On a special point scale, when ranking the top forty-two schools on the ACT list with those three characteristics, Lloyd's Principal is most concerned with, Lloyd moves up in order from forty-two to an amazing thirteen, showing that no matter which way you look at it, Lloyd is still excelling when compared to other schools in Kentucky. The goal for Mr. Reihemann is to find the "strategies Lloyd can incorporate to get the best education with the same resources."

# LMHS Students Ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in State

---

---

Math teacher Jami Sastre is also very pleased with the results of the ACT, stating that the departmental efforts to correlate their yearly teachings with the ACT curriculum have been paying off, and it shows when the students are more confident in what they do in class as well-confidence that not only helps with the math area of the ACT but with any subject in general.

Overall, the performance of the past junior class on the ACT has been incredible and the improvement from earlier classes phenomenal. When a small high school in Northern Kentucky does better than the majority of the state and also out-scores the state averages, it says something. It makes the teachers and the staff feel proud. It makes the students feel ready and prepared, and overall, it raises the bar on the performance standards of the coming juniors, standards that, in carrying tradition, should be set even higher this year.

#### Sources:

- "ACT Profile Report-High School: Section 1, Executive Summary"
- [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)

Lloyd Memorial High School  
Emily Bartee