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Mingus launches free SAT, ACT prep

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Staff Reporter

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COTTONWOOD -- For the first time this year, students at Mingus Union High School will have access to free SAT and ACT preparation courses.

Lead counselor Cindy Forsythe said the school has partnered with the Northern Arizona College Resource Center to offer the classes starting next week.

Mingus last offered an SAT prep course a few years ago, Forsythe said, but it cost students about \$100 each to participate.

About a third of the senior class takes at least one of those two tests each year, she said.

"This is a huge opportunity since it's free and it's being offered by the Northern Arizona College Resource Center, which is located in Flagstaff," Forsythe said.

The school first became affiliated with the resource center through Gear Up, a grant-funded program came to Mingus from the Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District in the fall of 2014.

Forsythe said the resource center also provided a December seminar of scholarships, and is set to host a FAFSA parent night on Feb. 9. The group is returning Feb. 17 to give one-on-one post-secondary counseling for students going into specific schools or areas of study.

All classes meet in the Mingus library from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Forsythe said she and the counseling staff are expecting between 35 and 50 students to attend. With after school sports taking priority for many students, Forsythe said she's still expecting strong attendance.

The SAT prep class meets Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and March 3, with a test being administered March 14. Registration is not required for the class, but students can sign up to take the test at www.sat.org/register.

Classes for the ACT prep course are being held March 24, March 31, April 7 and April 14, and students can sign up for the April 18 test at www.actstudent.org/start.

Forsythe said this is a valuable tool Mingus can now offer students whose families might be in a financial crunch.

"For kids to be able to have this opportunity and have it not cost them anything, and transportation isn't an issue because we're providing a bus for students," she said, "It's just one more way we're breaking down the barrier for the kids who might not be able to get this kind of help."

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