

# Meet the Redlands teen who earned a perfect score on the ACT

*By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts*

Posted: June 27, 2017 5:29 p.m.

(REDLANDS, CA) Earning a perfect score on the ACT is tough — but it's possible.

Just ask Matthew Kristoffersen, a soon-to-be senior at Redlands East Valley High school who is celebrating his perfect score.

The 16-year-old from Redlands used online resources to study for the test, which was administered in April at Cajon High School in San Bernardino.

Matthew said he was determined to get a high score after meeting a test taker from Utah who bragged about receiving a 36 — the highest number possible.

“I was motivated to beat him,” Matthew said. “Naturally, I am a competitive person and I wanted to prove to myself that I didn't need to be intimidated by this dude. So I went home from that college tour and started studying.”

On average, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the test will get a perfect score, according to a news release from the test company. The ACT tests a student's English, mathematics, reading and science skills. Students have the option to take an ACT writing test, which is scored separately from the main exam.

As a congratulations, ACT chief executive officer Marten Roorda sent Matthew a letter recognizing his achievement.

“Your achievement on the ACT is significant and rare,” the letter reads. “While test scores are just one of multiple criteria that most colleges consider when making admission decisions, your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals.”

Matthew is a busy student at REV and a seasonal worker with David Raff & Co., an accounting firm in Redlands. He is also active in band, plans to start an investment club on campus his senior year, is a member of both the Redlands Fourth of July Band and Redlands Jazz Band, and is editor-in-chief of Ethic, a student-run publication in the Redlands Unified School District.

Matthew does not know where he plans to attend college after graduating next June, but thinks Stanford “would be a good place to go,” he said.

And for students taking the ACT next year or in the years to come, Matthew has some advice:  
“At a certain point of the test, it’s not testing what you know but how well you take (it).”