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Trio Aces ACT

Madeira High School (MHS) Junior René Polanco aced the American College Test (ACT) at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. At the end of the year, two more members of the MHS Class of 2022 also scored a perfect 36 - Niklas Polanco and Henry Manning.

The ACT evaluates what students have learned in high school to determine their academic readiness for college. Their composite score is the average of correct answers to 75 English questions, 60 mathematics questions, and 40 each of reading and science questions. Close to 2 million students took the ACT last year, with an average composite score of 20.6 out of 36. A perfect score of 36 is rare, with only 0.334% attaining it. To have three students in a school the size of Madeira is special enough, but the fact that two of the three are identical twins who received perfect scores is even more unique.

René took the test for the first time in September 2020. "After I took the ACT I felt at least moderately sure in all my answers, so I knew there was a chance something like this would happen but it was still a surprise when it did," Polanco stated. He was presented with a commemorative trophy as his parents watched via a video call.

His twin brother Niklas took the ACT twice. "I thought there was a chance I got a 36, but it was still a nice surprise when I did," he commented. He is involved in Latin Club, Band, Model UN, and the MHS Academic Team.

Henry Manning also took the test twice – once over the summer and once during the school year. He is involved in Latin Club and plays football and baseball for Madeira. Of his accomplishment, Henry stated, "After taking it, I went home and told my parents that I got a 36 in hopes of willing it into existence, and it looks like that worked."

René, Niklas, and Henry will be seniors in the 2021-2022 school year, making them members of the school's 100th graduating class.



MHS perfect ACT test score recipients (pictured l to r) Niklas and Reneé Polanco, and Henry Manning.