

Junior Fall Newsletter Class of 2006

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“New” Test: PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test / National Merit
Scholarship Qualifying Test

Test Day: Saturday, October 16, 2004

The “new” PSAT/NMSQT will be administered in October 2004 to help students prepare for the new SAT that will debut in March 2005. The changes to the PSAT will parallel many of the changes to the SAT. The changes will be based on the principle that the test should more closely align with high school curricula and college skills. The PSAT Score Report Plus will continue to help students determine their strengths and weaknesses by providing personalized feedback on academic skills. Each student will receive the test questions, their answers, and the correct answers as a study guide in December when the scores are returned to CHS. This exam is excellent practice for college entrance exams required for college admission. **All juniors are strongly encouraged to register for the PSAT.**

Students will register for the test beginning in early September through their English class. There is a testing fee of \$15.00 and the test is given during the school day.

Total Test Time

The new PSAT will last 2 hours and 5 minutes - 5 minutes less than the current PSAT.

Critical Reading (Currently Called Verbal)

Overview

- * There are currently two 25 minute sections / no change
- * Analogies will be eliminated
- * Short reading passages will be added

Sentence completions will continue to be included on the test. Reading passages will range from 500 to 800 words and will include selections from the humanities, social studies, natural sciences, and literary fiction. The “new” PSAT will also include new shorter reading paragraphs similar to those on the “new” SAT.

Mathematics

Overview

- * There are currently two 25 minute sections / no change
- * Higher level math content will be added
- * Quantitative comparisons will be eliminated
- * 2 student-produced response questions added (10 total)

While the new topics on the PSAT are also being added to the SAT, the SAT will generally test these topics at a higher level. Content from third-year college preparatory math

will not be added because most students taking the PSAT are likely to have little or no experience with these topics. Mathematical content on the current PSAT is divided among arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and geometry. While this will still be true of the “new” PSAT, the mathematics section will be enhanced. The following new or expanded topics will be added to the “new” PSAT:

Number and Operations

- * Sequences and series involving exponential growth
- * Sets (union, intersection, elements)

Algebra and Functions

- * Operation on algebraic expressions
- * Absolute value
- * Rational equations and inequalities
- * Radical equations
- * Manipulation with integer and rational exponents
- * Direct and inverse variation
- * Functions as models
- * Linear functions (equations and graphs)

Geometry and Measurement

- * Notation for length, segments, lines, rays, congruence
- * Triangles (nonspecial)
- * Properties of tangent lines
- * Coordinate geometry

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

- * Data interpretation, including scatterplots
- * Geometric probability
- * Median and mode

Writing

Overview

- * One 25 minute section / 5 minutes less than current test
- * Multiple-choice questions similar to those on the “new” SAT
- * No official essay is included

The multiple-choice questions in this section will continue to test students’ ability to identify sentence errors, improve sentences, and improve paragraphs.

Why PSAT / NMSQT Has No Essay

Unlike the SAT, the PSAT tests all students (more than 2.5 million) during two days in October. Finding enough readers to evaluate this large volume of essays isn’t feasible especially when, starting in 2005, many readers will be busy evaluating fall SAT essays. The addition of an officially scored essay would also delay the delivery of score reports to schools and students. In addition, because the test is often administered during school hours, the increased testing time resulting from an essay would put a strain on many schools’ busy instructional schedules.

Memphis Teen Volunteers

Need volunteer hours?

Community service is very important and colleges and scholarship applications are looking for the activities that students have done in their community to help others. There are many opportunities for teens to volunteer in Shelby County. For ideas, call Volunteer Memphis at 458-3288 or check the web.

www.volunteermemphis.com

Contact:
Katherine Doughtie, Volunteer Memphis
Doughtie@midsouth.rr.com

Key points to follow during your junior year!

- * Keep involved in your after-school and extracurricular activities. Colleges look for students with a variety of interests.
- * Continue your volunteer work. Colleges look for concerned and active students.
- * Read at least one unassigned book each month. Readers do better in high school and tend to get into better colleges.
- * Run for class office, demonstrate leadership.
- * Study hard in English; the writing skills you will gain will be important in any career you choose.
- * No matter how talented you are in a sport, the band, or in an interest group, poor grades will stand out.
- * It is getting harder to pull up your GPA now that you have four semesters finished. Remember, you will apply to colleges after this year (six semesters), so now is the time to make those A's.
- * Visit the College Reference room located in Guidance for all college materials. The reference library at CHS also has information - see Mrs. Nance.
- * Go to college fairs or college night programs. These programs take place during the first few months of school. Visit all the colleges you plan to apply. If you can not visit, request a videotape from the college.
- * Visit my college web site for current information regarding college parent night meetings, dates of college recruiter visits, financial aid information scholarship information, etc.

Note About College Majors

It is okay to be undecided about a major - most colleges provide services to help students select a major during the first and/or second year.

**Many colleges encourage telephone
and e-mail inquiries and requests.**

Checklist for a Campus Visit

A campus visit is highly recommended. Before you visit the campus, consider some of the options below. It is also important to develop a list of questions and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals.

- ___ Meet with an admission officer.
- ___ Verify admission requirements (tests and high school preparation).
- ___ Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- ___ Find out how to apply.
- ___ Obtain a school calendar and a catalog.
- ___ Determine college costs.
- ___ Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc.
- ___ Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- ___ Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- ___ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style, academic atmosphere.
- ___ Ask about the placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- ___ Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- ___ Tour the campus (be sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, security, etc.).
- ___ Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramural, etc.) are available and about campus life in terms of dating and social activities.
- ___ Investigate transportation options.

Know Your College Major?

Check out the following web site for schools with a listing of your college major: **www.collegenet.com**

Want To Search Colleges By State?

Check out the following web site for schools listed by state: **www.allaboutcollege.com**

Want To Compare Colleges?

Go to: **www.usnews.com**
Compare your top 4 university choices.
Click on

1. [education](#)
2. [college](#)
3. interactive tools - [more tools](#)
4. [compare colleges](#)

This web site allows you to compare:
location
academics
cost
financial aid
admission criteria
retention rate
student body information, etc.

Great Web Site!

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New ACT Writing Section February 2005

ACT will add a 30-minute Writing Test as an optional component to the ACT Assessment beginning in February 2005 for students applying to college for the fall semester of 2006 or later. This new writing section should not effect any senior, although someone may opt to take the writing test.

Postsecondary institutions will make their own decisions about whether to require the results from the ACT Writing Test for admission and/or course placement purposes.

Important College Testing Information

ACT and SAT

Students must have an ACT or SAT score to be fully admitted to a junior college or four year university. **Testing is most important during the junior year of high school in order to be ready to apply to colleges during the first semester of your senior year.**

Juniors, be very careful when you bubble in your high school test code and the test center code. If you fail to bubble in the correct numbers, you will have to pay to have this corrected by ACT or the College Board for SAT. CHS will not know this is a problem because we will not have your score - and you probably think we do. You can check this upon receiving your score report. Look to see that CHS is listed or 430410. If it is blank, call the testing center immediately and pay for the correction and your score to be sent to CHS. We have all your test results on your test card in Mrs. Farmer's office.

It is equally important to bubble in correctly the year you will graduate from high school. If this is not done correctly and you are seeking the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship, you will not be included in that year's list of graduating seniors and this will delay your scholarship.

CHS gives the ACT in October, December, February, and April. Students should investigate each college they may want to attend to see which test, ACT or SAT, that college requires. Most schools will accept either test. If the school you are interested in only accepts the SAT or SAT II, students will have to register to take that test at Ridgeway High School or Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis.

CHS test code number is: **430410**
CHS test center location code is: **194260**

2004-2005 ACT test dates

<u>ACT dates</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
October 23	September 17
December 11	November 05
February 12	January 07
April 09	March 04
June 11*	May 06

Students may register on-line by going to :
www.act.org

2004-2005 SAT test dates

<u>SAT dates</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
October 09*	September 07
November 06*	October 01
December 04*	October 29
January 22*	December 20
March 12 (SAT I only)*	February 07
New SAT	
May 07*	March 25
New SAT	
June 04*	April 29
New SAT	

Students may register on-line by going to :
www.collegeboard.com

***Tests not given at Collierville High location.**

SAT I and SAT II Achievement Tests are not given at CHS. Students may register to take these tests at Ridgeway High School (43199) or Lemoyne-Owen College (43185) using their **test center location codes**. Check with the universities that interest you to see if they require the SAT II Achievement Tests for admission and which specific tests they require for admission. Students should always bubble in the CHS **test code number** (430410) so the scores will be sent to CHS regardless of where the test is taken.

Introducing the NEW SAT 2005

The class of 2006 will be the first to take the new SAT in spring 2005.

Some of the changes to the SAT include:

- * A student-written essay
- * Analogies eliminated
- * Shorter reading passages added
- * New content from third-year college prep math (Alg. II)
- * Quantitative Comparisons eliminated

Junior College Parent Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2004
Collierville High Library
(in the reference area located in the back of the room)

Important DATES

Please mark these dates on your calendar for reference this year.

August

- 10 Fall College Newsletter from Mrs. Comella
- 31 Meet the Teacher Night - 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

September

October

- 07 Junior Parent Meeting - "College Planning" 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the CHS library
- 09 SAT
- 15 Report Cards delivered
- 16 PSAT (new version)
- 23 ACT
- 25 College Night at the Agricenter - 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

November

December

- 04 SAT
- 11 ACT

January

- 03 Winter College Newsletter from Mrs. Comella
- 05 Report Cards delivered
- 22 SAT

February

- 12 ACT (new Writing section offered)

March

- 10 Junior Parent Meeting - "College Planning" 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the CHS library
- 12 SAT I (new version)
- 23 Report Cards

April

- 09 ACT (new Writing section offered)

May

- 07 SAT (new version)

June

- 04 SAT (new version)
- 11 ACT (new Writing section offered)

College Recruiters

Juniors are encouraged to visit with the college recruiters when they visit our high school campus.
Listen to morning announcements and visit the college web site for the most up-to-date listings.

web address: http://66.5.3.2/Teacher_web_pages/Comella/default.html