

August 28, 2023

Dear Sophomores & Juniors:

I hope the school year is off to a good start! On **Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 8:00am-11am**, the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered to interested sophomores and juniors at Westford Academy. **The PSAT/NMSQT is suited for those students who have already completed Geometry.**

There are many changes to the PSATs this fall so please read this document carefully prior to registering for the exam.

The PSAT/NMSQT is composed of the following 2 sections. (1) the Reading and Writing Section, and (2) the Math Section. Most of the questions are multiple choice, though some math questions ask you to write in the answer rather than select it.

The following table shows how much time you get for each section and the number of questions for each test:

Section	Length (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Reading and Writing	64	54
Math	70	44
Total	134	98

After you take the PSAT/NMSQT, you can get a free, tailored practice program for the SAT—based on your personal test results—through [Khan Academy](#). You also get free access to the Roadmap to Careers online tool from [Roadtrip Nation](#) to explore majors and careers that reflect your interests.

Please see the [PSAT Student Guide](#) for information on how to prepare, what to bring, score reports and more.

FAQs:

Q: Will the test still be paper and pencil?

A: No, the whole test is digital and will be taken on a student's WA issued chromebook. It will be administered on CollegeBoard's Bluebook digital testing application that will be downloaded to your device.

Q: Will the paper and pencil PSAT still be available alongside the digital version?

A: CollegeBoard is making a full transition to digital so we will no longer offer a paper and pencil version of the test. CollegeBoard will continue to support students who test with accommodations that require a paper and pencil test.

Q: Can a student use their own laptop?

A: No, students must use their school issued chromebook. This will ensure that it will meet the standards for the PSAT testing as well as the digital security protocol for our network.

Q: How long is the test?

A: The test is shorter than in previous years. The PSATs will now be 2 hours and 14 minutes long (this doesn't include breaks). This is about a half hour shorter than the paper PSATs. The digital version has fewer questions (98 in total where the paper PSAT consisted of 139 questions).

Q: Do students still need to bring a #2 pencil and calculator?

A: There will be a math reference sheet and calculator available in the digital library (or you can bring an [approved calculator](#)). Students should still bring a few pencils. There will also be an annotation tool where you can highlight text or to leave yourself a note.

Q: What else do students need to bring to the testing site?

A: A pencil (or 2!), approved calculator (unless you want to use the one embedded in the software) and a FULLY CHARGED chromebook.

Q: What can students expect for the digital version?

A: What [THIS VIDEO](#) on what to expect.

Q: Is there a student guide?

A: Yes, here is the [Student Guide](#).

Q: How do students keep track of the timing of the test?

A: The Exam App has a timer that will count down the minutes and seconds remaining in each module. You can hide the timer, but once there are 5 minutes remaining, the timer will become visible until time is up. When time expires, your work will be automatically saved and submitted if you are connected to the internet. You will not be able to keep working on a question after time expires. You are required to stay for the full duration of the test. You cannot end a module early or submit your answers before the timer runs out.

Q: What are the CollegeBoard PSAT testing rules?

A: You can find them [HERE](#).

Q: Will WA be offering the PSATs on another day?

A: No, the only testing date at WA will be on Saturday, 10/14. If your student can't attend on that day, you can call around to local high schools to see if/when they are testing during the week and see if they are accepting outside students. Students can also access [free practice tests](#) through CollegeBoard and Khan Academy. These practice tests are available for free, both online (through Bluebook) and on paper.

Q: When will scores be available?

A: On November 6th. Students will receive that information via CollegeBoard.

Q: How much is the exam?

A: The exam fee is \$30.00.

Registration opens for the PSATs through [Total Registration](#) on Friday, 9/1 at 9am and closes on Monday, 9/14 promptly at 2pm. Late registrations will not be accepted.

Please note that this year we are fully transitioning to the digital version. There are deadlines we need to meet to upload our registration file to CollegeBoard. There is also a digital readiness test that we'll need to complete. Due to all these additional steps, there will be no exceptions for late registrations.

Sincerely,

Lauren Clark

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Westford Academy

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