

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

Presented by Taryn Mesaros – Director of School Partnerships

---

Brookfield High School

Wednesday, September 30th, 2015

# CATALYST

The *spark* to an extraordinary score



*"And how long would you say your son has been a junior in high school?"*

Website: [www.CatalystPrep.com](http://www.CatalystPrep.com) | Phone: (800) 235-0056 | Email: [info@catalystprep.com](mailto:info@catalystprep.com)

[Taryn.Mesaros@catalystprep.com](mailto:Taryn.Mesaros@catalystprep.com)

# The PSAT

## Welcome to Standardized Testing!

- “PSAT” stands for “Preliminary SAT”
- The PSAT is designed to measure college preparedness.
  - In other words, if you score at or above the benchmark, you’re on track to be ready for college when you graduate high school. If you’re below, you still have time to work on your preparedness
- Qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship
- Students will receive information from colleges based on their profile.
- Students will be given suggestions for improving their skills to enhance current learning and success for college.
- The “redesigned” PSAT debuts NEXT MONTH! **October 2015.**

# The NEW PSAT

## Welcome to Standardized Testing!

	PSAT
Who	Juniors / Sophomores
What	4 Section, 165 Minute test, No Essay, Reading, Writing & Language, Math (no calculator) & Math w Calculator
When	October (Wed – 10/14 @ <b>BHS</b> )
Why	Practice & NMSQT
Something you probably didn't know!	NEW Scoring: 160 – 760 per subject (Reading/Writing & Math)  320 – 1520 total

# THE NEW SAT IS COMING!

Here's What You Need To Know And How To Prepare

- **If You're In the Class of 2017...**
- You're a junior, you are now thinking about college, and you just found out you're part of the first batch of students to be taking the New SAT.



# The Redesigned SAT

- **Debuts in March 2016.**
- **Format:**
  - 3 Hours (plus 50 minutes for the optional Essay)
    - Reading: 65 minutes, 52 questions
    - Writing and Language: 35 minutes, 44 questions
    - Math: 80 minutes, 58 questions
    - Essay: 50 minutes, 1 question (Optional)
    - Only 4 answer choices for Multiple Choice Questions.
- **Scoring:**
  - Total Maximum Score is 1600 (Lowest Total Score is 400)
  - Scale ranges from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, 200 to 800 for Math, and 2 to 8 on each of three traits for the Essay. Essay results are reported separately.
  - Sub-scores and insight scores will be available for students
  - No deductions for incorrect answers.

# More Redesigned SAT Reading / Writing

- R/W are combined into one 200 – 800 point score
  - 65 Minute – Reading Section
  - 35 Minute – Language & Writing Section
- **Content:**
  - NO MORE sentence completions
  - Focus on understanding of passages from U.S. and World Literature.
  - Writing tests “expression of ideas” through passages relating to Careers, History/Social Studies, Humanities and Science.

# More Redesigned SAT – MATH

- Two multiple choice sections
  - 20 questions / 25 minutes & 38 questions / 55 minutes
  - One section w/ Calculator, one section without.
- **Content:**
  - More advanced Math: Algebra II and Trigonometry
  - Features word problems based on real life scenarios, and applying math to sciences and social sciences.



# More Redesigned SAT – ESSAY

- The Essay **OPTIONAL**
- 50 Minutes
- Analyzing 650 – 750 word document
- Tests reading, analysis & writing. Requires students to explain how the author builds an argument.
- Facts Matter!
- Scored independently (6-24)
  - 3 scores (reading, writing, & analysis) scored from 2-8

# The ACT

- **3 hours 25 minutes (including the optional 30-minute essay)**
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  English,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Math,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Reading,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Science
  - Total Maximum Score: 36 (Lowest Total Score: 1)
  - Each section scored 1 – 36.
  - Total score is an average of the 4 sections.
  - Some schools may require the writing test, so it is highly recommended to take it.
- Students usually take the ACT in the spring of their junior year, and if necessary, again in the fall of their senior year.
- There is no penalty for marking the incorrect answer on the ACT.

# What is a Good SAT / ACT Score?

- A “good score” for one college could be considered exceptional for another, and vice versa. A “bad score” for one college could be considered average for another.
- Most colleges release admissions data from previous years to give applicants a general picture of previous incoming freshman score ranges and averages.
- Many college-bound students take the SAT or ACT two to three times, not just once.

# Score Choice & Super Scoring

- Score Choice - If a student takes the SAT / ACT and scores below a desired range, she or he has the option to wipe the slate clean and try again.
- Score Choice is optional and the student has to “opt-in” for it.
- Some schools (Yale, Cornell, Georgetown, to name a few) have a non-Score Choice policy and require that all test scores be sent with the application.

# Score Choice Continued....

- Superscoring – A student can submit scores from test dates the student chooses, and the schools will pick your best score from each section, creating a “Superscore.”
- The college will take the student’s scores from the SAT / ACT tests taken and combine them into one Superscore.
- Colleges do see all submitted scores for each section
- Although a college sees all of your scores, it is still in your interest to use this tool. Colleges can benefit in various rankings from Superscoring.

# College Admissions Timeline

When	What
Sophomore Year	Fall – PSAT
Junior Year	Fall – PSAT (NMSQT), October 14, 2015 at BHS
	Winter – Preliminary College research
	Spring – SAT (March/May/June) or ACT (April/June)
	Spring/Summer – College Visits
Senior Year	Fall – SAT (Oct/Nov/Dec) ACT (Sep/Oct/Dec) & College Applications! Pay attention to DEADLINES!!

# SAT versus the ACT – The Scores!

SAT	ACT
2400 (1600)	36
2130	32
1980	30
1860	28
1820	27
1760	26
1650	24
<b>1500 (1000)</b>	<b>21</b>
1410	20
1350	19
1290	18
1140	16
900	13
750 (510)	11

# You probably have some questions like:

- **Why is this happening to me?!** Every once in a while the SAT gets overhauled. Like with the classes of '06, '95, '75, and '46
- **What's going to be different about the New SAT?**
  - The New SAT will greatly reduce the emphasis on obscure vocabulary.
  - The types of questions and material in the Reading section are expanding to include new subjects, a famous historical document, and even a few informational graphics.
  - The Writing & Language section will include grammar and your ability to edit passages so that they convey information in a clear, not-confusing way.
  - The Math concepts tested will be slightly narrowed and refocused, with more of them styled to resemble “real-world” math scenarios.
  - The SAT Essay will no longer ask you to fake your way through an abstract, philosophical question; instead, you'll be reading a persuasive passage and then writing a response that analyzes how the author makes his or her argument. (The SAT Essay section, will also become optional)
  - The change you'll probably like most (drumroll) is that the New SAT won't have a penalty for guessing — you won't have points subtracted for wrong answers.



# .... Or questions like:

- **How do I get ready?** All the changes on the New SAT are designed to make the test more closely resemble the kind of work you already do in high school and the kind of work you'll be doing in college.

We still strongly encouraged to prep for the SAT specifically!

- The College Board released practice materials for the New SAT last spring.
- Along with free videos from the Khan Academy introducing the different types of questions and offering some strategies.
- Prep materials and resources will be released shortly thereafter, so you can prepare NOW and early in the Spring. Check the School Counseling website for options!

... and questions like:

- **I was planning on taking the SAT early. Can I still do that, or do I have to wait for the New SAT?** You can definitely still take the SAT this fall, and almost every college will continue to accept both the old and new versions. Check with your counselor if you have questions as to if you should take it.

# 2015-2016 TEST DATES

## SAT

- October, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 (OLD)
- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (OLD)
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (OLD)
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 (OLD)
- March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (NEW)\*
- May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (NEW)
- June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (NEW)

## ACT

- September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016\*
- April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

# Resources here at BHS

- Your Counselors
- Brookfield High School website & guidance site
- Naviance...USE IT!

# Questions?



*"We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah's admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT."*

Taryn.Mesaros@catalystprep.com