

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) (News release)

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, students in grades 8-11 will take the following exams, based on their grade level:

- **Current 8th and 9th grade students will take the Preliminary SAT 8/9 (PSAT 8/9).** The PSAT™ 8/9 is the first test in the SAT Suite of Assessments. Designed for eighth and ninth-graders and tightly aligned with the SAT® and PSAT/NMSQT®, the PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline for college and career readiness as students enter high school. The PSAT 8/9 measures the reading, writing and language, and math skills students need for college and a career. *Calculators will not be supplied by the campus for the PSAT 8/9 so students are encouraged to bring their own if they wish to use one. According to College Board, calculators are not essential for success on the PSAT 8/9 and there is actually one Math section where calculator use is prohibited.*
- **Current 10th and 11th grade students will take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).** The PSAT/NMSQT measures the reading, writing and language, and math skills students need to be ready for college and career. *Calculators will only be supplied by the campus to 11th grade students who are the only level eligible for the National Merit Scholarship program. While calculators are not essential for success on the PSAT/NMSQT, 10th grade students are encouraged to bring their own device if they wish to use one for the test since one will not be provided.*

Please visit the Fort Bend ISD Assessment and Testing page for additional information regarding calculator use and approved calculators.

Students may prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT by visiting Khan Academy at www.satpractice.org. By [linking](#) their Khan Academy account with their [College Board](#) account, students are able to access **free**, personalized practice recommendations based on previous years' test results that are tailored to their own strengths, weaknesses, and progress. **Juniors** who do well can qualify for national recognition and scholarships based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®.

Students or parents with questions about the October 11th tests are encouraged to contact their school counselor for more details.

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Subject: Information about the upcoming PSAT and free preparation resources (email for 10th and 11th grade)

Dear FBISD 10th and 11th grade students and their parents,

All FBISD 10th and 11th grade students will take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) on **Wednesday, October 11, 2017**. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the reading, writing and language, and math skills students need to be ready for college and career.

Juniors who do well can qualify for national recognition and scholarships based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®.

*Please note, calculators **will only be supplied by the campus to 11th grade students** who are the only level eligible for the National Merit Scholarship program. While calculators are not essential for success on the PSAT/NMSQT, 10th grade students are encouraged to bring their own device if they wish to use one for the test since one will not be provided. **Please see additional information posted on the FBISD [Assessment and Testing webpage](#) and included below regarding calculator use and approved Calculators***

Through a partnership between Khan Academy and the College Board, full-length practice tests and thousands of practice questions are available at www.satpractice.org. By [linking](#) their Khan Academy account with their [College Board](#) account, students are able to access **free**, personalized practice recommendations based on previous years' test results that are tailored to their own strengths, weaknesses, and progress. The Official SAT Practice can be accessed from any computer with Internet access, and includes practice questions that were written in collaboration with the same developers who created the SAT and PSAT.

Students or parents with questions about the October 11th tests are encouraged to contact their school counselor for more details.

We hope you find the [Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy](#) helpful in preparing for this test!

Calculator Use and Approved Calculators:

The PSAT/NMSQT includes 2 hours and 45 minutes of actual testing time and 15 minutes of breaks. There will be tests in reading, writing and language, math (given in 2 portions – one with no calculator and one on which a calculator is permitted, although not required) and a variable section with questions from all three of those areas.

Regarding calculator use and approved calculators, the College Board states, ***“All questions can be solved without a calculator, but a scientific or graphing calculator is recommended [for the portion of the math test on which a calculator is permitted].....Students are encouraged to bring their own calculators.*** Students may **NOT** use:

- laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones;
- models that can access the Internet, have wireless, Bluetooth, cellular, audio/video, recording and playing, camera or any other smartphone-type feature;
- models that have typewriter-like keypad, pen-input, or stylus; or
- models that use electrical outlets, make noise, or have paper tape.”

The following calculators ARE ALLOWED on the PSAT/NMSQT Math Portion that permits calculator use.

All scientific calculators are acceptable to use on the PSAT/NMSQT. Any four-function calculator can be used (though not recommended). The following is a list of approved graphing calculators for the PSAT/NMSQT. No other graphing calculator may be used.

<u>Casio</u>		<u>Hewlett-Packard</u>	<u>Radio Shack</u>	<u>Sharp</u>	<u>Texas Instruments</u>	
FX-6000 series	FX-8700 series	HP-9G	EC-4033	EL-5200	TI-83	TI-85
FX-6200 series	FX-8800 series	HP-28 series	EC-4034	EL-9200 series	TI-80	TI-86
FX-6300 series	FX-9700 series	HP-38G	EC-4037	EL-9300 series	TI-81	TI-89
FX-6500 series	FX-9750 series	HP-39 series		EL-9600 series**	TI-82	TI-89 Titanium
FX-7000 series	FX-9860 series	HP-40 series		EL-9900 series	TI-83	TI-Nspire
FX-7300 series	CFX-9800 series	HP-48 series		<u>Other</u>	TI-83 Plus	TI-Nspire CX
FX-7400 series	CFX-9850 series	HP-49 series		Datexx DS-883	TI-83 Plus Silver	TI-Nspire CM-C
FX-7500 series	CFX-9970 series	HP-50 series		Micronta	TI-84 Plus Silver	TI-Nspire CAS
FX-7700 series	FX 1.0 series	HP Prime		Smart ²	TI-84 Plus CE	TI-Nspire CX
FX-7800 series	Algebra FX 2.0 series				TI-84 Plus Silver	CAS
FX-8000 series	FX-CG-10 (PRIZM)				TI-84 Plus C Silver	TI-Nspire CM-C CAS
FX-8500 series	FX-CG-20					TI-Nspire CX-C CAS

**The use of the stylus is not permitted.

As stated above, it is recommended that students bring their own calculators, although the use of a calculator is not required since all questions can be solved without a calculator. **Schools will not provide calculators on test day for 10th grade students. Calculators will be available for 11th grade students as they are the only level eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program.** It is not necessary for you to purchase a graphing calculator. Scientific calculators, which many households already have, will be sufficient for this exam. Also, many of them can be purchased inexpensively.

Sincerely,

Fort Bend ISD Counseling and Postsecondary Readiness

For more information about linking your College Board and Khan Academy accounts [or for information about accommodations for students with disabilities](#), please visit the [FBISD Testing/Assessment webpage](#).

Subject: Information about the upcoming PSAT 8/9 and free preparation resources (email for 8th and 9th grade)

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The best way students can prepare for the PSAT 8/9 is by doing their best in school. Students may also visit Khan Academy at www.satpractice.org to create a **free** account to access personalized practice recommendations based on previous years' test results or the results of a series of diagnostic tests. This online resource is available through a partnership between Khan Academy and the College Board.

Students may [link](#) their Khan Academy account to their [College Board](#) account to receive personalized practice suggestions based on scores of any previous College Board assessment.

Students can also find full-length practice tests from the College Board and thousands of practice questions that were written in collaboration with the same developers who created the SAT and PSAT.

Official SAT Practice may be accessed from any computer with Internet access. Students or parents with questions about the October 11th tests are encouraged to contact their school counselor for more details.

We hope you find the [Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy](#) helpful in preparing for this test!

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