

Subject: Information about the upcoming PSAT 8/9 and free preparation resources

Dear FBISD 8th and 9th grade students and their parents,

All FBISD 8th and 9th grade students will take the Preliminary SAT 8/9 (PSAT 8/9) on **Tuesday, December 1, 2020**. 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.

Parents of students that are currently using online instruction; will need to fill out the FBISD PSAT/SAT Request form by October 7, so that we can plan accordingly for the testing day.

[FBISD PSAT/SAT Request Form](#)

*Please note the campus is not supplying calculators 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 one Math section does not permit the use of a calculator. **Please see additional information below regarding approved calculators and their use.***

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 written in collaboration with the same developers who created the SAT and PSAT.

Students can access the Official SAT Practice from any computer with Internet access. Students or parents with questions about the December 1 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 8/9 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 two 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
- Smartwatches or wearable technology of any kind
- Models that can access the Internet, have wireless, Bluetooth, cellular, audio/video recording and playing, camera, or any other smart phone type feature
- Models that have a computer-style (QWERTY) keypad, pen-input, or stylus
- Models that use electrical outlets, make noise, or have a paper tape
- Calculator function on a mobile phone

- In addition, it is not permissible to use of hardware peripherals such as a stylus with an approved calculator. Students **cannot use** some models of calculators with a touch screen (e.g., Casio ClassPad).

The following calculators ARE ALLOWED on the PSAT 8/9 Math Portion that permits calculator use.

All scientific calculators are acceptable to use on the PSAT 8/9. Students can use any four-function calculator (not recommended). The following is a list of approved graphing calculators for the PSAT 8/9. No other graphing calculator may be used.

****Students cannot use a stylus.**

<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	EL-5200	TI-83	TI-85
FX-6200 series	FX-8800 series	HP-28 series	EL-9200 series	TI-80	TI-86
FX-6300 series	FX-9700 series	HP-38G	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	Other	TI-83 Plus	TI-Nspire CX
FX-7400 series	CFX-9850 series	HP-49 series	Datexx DS-883	TI-83 Plus	TI-Nspire CX II
FX-7500 series	CFX-9970 series	HP-50 series	Micronta	Silver	TI-Nspire CX II-T
FX-7700 series	FX 1.0 series	HP Prime	Smart ²	TI-84 Plus	TI-Nspire CM-C
FX-7800 series	Algebra FX 2.0 series			TI-84 Plus CE	TI Nspire CAS
FX-8000 series	FX-CG-10 (PRIZM)			TI-84 Plus	TI-Nspire CX
FX-8500 series	FX-CG-20			Silver	CAS
	FX-CG-50			TI-84 Plus C	TI-Nspire CX II
	Graph35 series				CAS
	Graph75 series				TI-Nspire CX II-T
	Graph95 series				CAS
	Graph100 series				TI-Nspire CM-C
	FX-CG 500				CAS
					TI-Nspire CX-C
					CAS
					TI-Nspire CX II-C
					CAS

As stated above, students are encouraged to bring their own calculators, although the use of a calculator is not required since all questions are solvable without a calculator. **Schools will not provide calculators on test day.** It is not necessary for you to purchase a graphing calculator. Scientific calculators, which many households have, will be sufficient for this exam. Many calculators are quite inexpensive if you need to purchase a calculator.

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Sincerely,
Fort Bend ISD SEL & Enrichment Programs

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](#).