

Almont Middle School  
PSAT for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Spring Testing is Tuesday, April 14th

Blue links in this presentation can be  
selected to go to other sites.

Start your testing day at AMS.  
Go to your testing teacher's room.

Spring testing will start at  
Almont Middle School.  
Then students will be taken to  
Almont High School.

DO NOT get dropped off at the high  
school!

## **Fall Testing for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade was in October**

- **PSAT 8/9 for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**
- **This is a practice test.**

## **Spring Testing in April for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – For Accountability**

- **PSAT 8/9 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**
  - **Go to the Middle School as usual in the morning.**
  - **Students will go to the Middle School first to meet in their testing teacher's classroom. They will have a snack and then will travel with those teachers to Almont High School.**
- **M-Step Science and Social Studies only.**  
**Will test on Chromebooks like past years.**  
**These tests are given at Almont Middle School during Science and Social Studies classes on later dates in April.**

# Spring Test Dates at Almont Middle School

## Almont Middle School - Spring Testing

Test	Testing Date(s)	Makeup Date(s)
<b>8th Grade</b>  PSAT 8/9	April 14th	PSAT 8/9 makeup for 8 <sup>th</sup> grade are planned for the next week.
M-Step Science and Social Studies	1 or 2 class sessions for each test. Given in Science and Social Studies classes in April.	

**Testing will begin at the start of the regular school day and will last about 3 hours.**

Half Day Schedule after Testing

Everyone will go back to their teacher's room for attendance and will be released at the same time for lunch.

Announcements will be made for release to lunch.

The remainder of your day will be 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> hours.

# Room Rosters Posted by Your Classrooms

- Room rosters will be posted in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade hallway and on your testing room doors.
- Find the teacher you will be testing with and go to that room at the beginning of testing day.
- **Do not go to your regular class first hour.**

# Pre-registration



This is a paper/pencil test.

Before your test day we will come into one of your classes to bubble in your answer document and have it ready for testing.

# Skills Tested



Reading Test



Writing and Language Test



Math Test

- Each test assesses the academic skills that students developed over the years, primarily through coursework.
- These skills are considered essential for success in high school, college, and career.

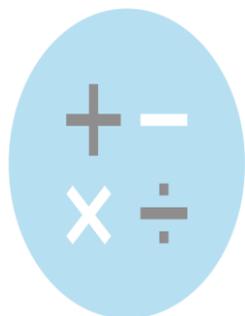
# Math Section

## Student-Produced Responses

### Sample Grids

Instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, students will need to solve problems and enter their answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.

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Make sure you know how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions.

For example, you can't enter  $2\frac{1}{2}$  into the grid.  
You must convert it to  $\frac{5}{2}$  to enter it into the grid.

# Math Section

- **Student-Produced Response**
- Student-produced response questions are also known as grid-ins. That's because instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, students are required to solve problems and enter their answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.
  
- **Strategies**
- Here are some hints for answering student-produced response questions.
- Since answer choices aren't given, an [approved calculator](#) may be helpful in avoiding careless mistakes.
- Write your answer in the boxes above the grid to avoid errors in gridding.
- Some questions may have more than one right answer. Grid only one answer.
- Keep in mind that there are no point deductions for wrong answers.
- Know the gridding rules before taking the test.

# Math Section

## How to Grid In an Answer

Here are the gridding rules:

- Mark no more than one circle in any column.
- Only answers entered in the ovals in each grid area will be correct. Students do not receive credit for anything written in the boxes above the ovals.
- It doesn't matter in which column students begin entering their answers; as long as the correct answer is gridded, students will receive credit.
- The grid can hold only four places and can accommodate **only positive numbers** and zero.
- Unless a problem indicates otherwise, an answer can be entered on the grid as a decimal or a fraction.
- You don't have to reduce fractions like  $\frac{3}{24}$  to their lowest terms.
- Convert all mixed numbers to improper fractions before gridding the answer.
- If the answer is a repeating decimal, you must grid the most accurate value the grid will accommodate.

**Ask your Math teacher for more explanation.**

# Resources

## For Students and Parents

- For general information about the PSAT 8/9, please visit [www.psat.org/8-9](http://www.psat.org/8-9). You can also [visit the PSAT 8/9 Resource Library](#) for the latest student resources.

# Some things you will see in the Resource Library.

## You can select the links below:

### [PSAT 8/9 Student Guide](#)

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-8-9-student-guide.pdf>

- A guide to help students and their parents prepare for the PSAT 8/9.

### [Understanding 2018-19 PSAT 8/9 Results: A Parent Tutorial](#)

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/understanding-psat-8-9-results-parent-tutorial.pdf>

- A guide to help students and parents interpret results from the PSAT 8/9.

### [Sample PSAT 8/9 Score Report](#)

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/sample-psat-8-9-score-report.pdf>

- Explains the sections of the paper student score report.

# Test Day Security for all SAT and PSAT Tests

## Items for testers to remember:

- **No Cell phones, Chromebooks, smartwatches, or any electronic device may be in the testing room.**
- **Please put your phone or Chromebook or electronic devices including smartwatches in your locker before you come to the testing room. Anyone with these during testing may be dismissed from testing and your test will not be scored. It has happened before and students have lost the privilege to test.**
- **Any posting to the internet during testing will cause an investigation and cancelled scores from the College Board.**
- **Breaks are strictly timed. You must be back to the room within the 5 minute break times. Even if you have a snack and water during your break, you still have to get back to your testing room within the 5 minute time.**
- **Testing students will not be able to go to their lockers during their break for any reason.**
- **Pencils will be provided by the school for testing**
- **You can bring your own calculator or use the one we provide for you.**

# Electronic Device Policy

Leave your phone and other devices in your middle school locker.

Do not bring cell phones, Smartwatches, Fitbits or any other electronic device.

Teachers will collect them in the testing rooms if you have them with you.

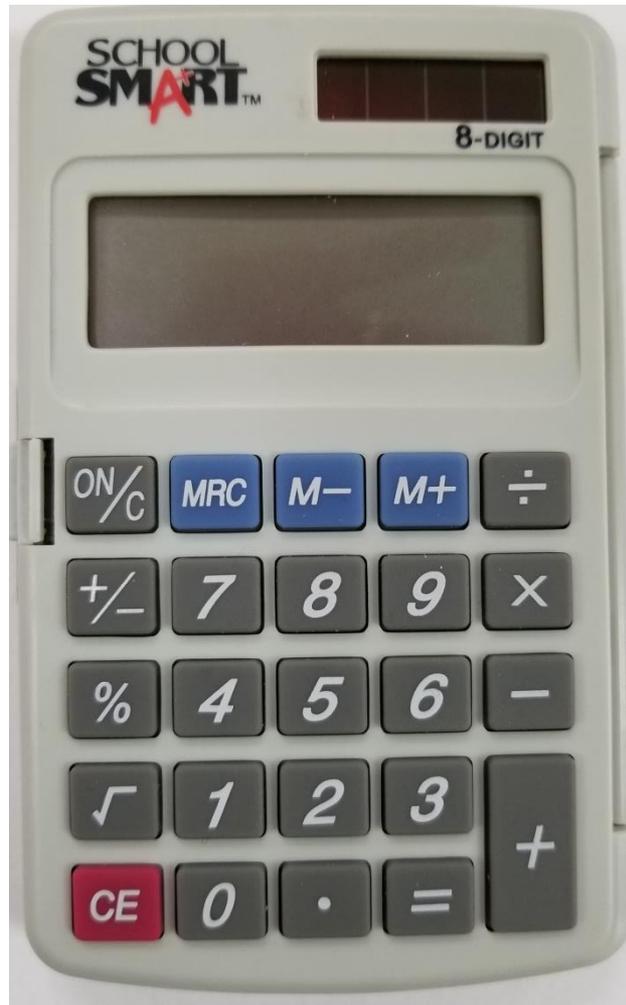
## Electronic Device Policy



- Students may not use or access the device until testing is complete.
- Prohibited devices must be turned off and collected.
- If a student is seen using a prohibited device at any time before testing is complete, including during breaks, this is grounds for immediate dismissal and score cancellation.
- If a student's device makes noise, this may also be considered grounds for dismissal, refer to your Coordinator Manual and the Irregularity Chart.

## Example of a Scientific Calculator

**Any Scientific calculator may be used.** Calculators will be provided on test day.



# How to Prepare

## Keep up on your courses

- This is for you!
- Familiarity helps with test taking.
- Practice in reading, writing and math improves skills.
- Read – even if you don't like to read books, find magazines or websites on subjects that you find interesting.
- Talk to your teachers if you want help with PSAT questions that you are struggling with.

## Use the College Board and Khan Academy for Extra Practice

- In 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the College Board recommends that keeping up on coursework is most important. Khan Academy is more relevant as students get closer to taking the SAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. However, their tips and strategies can be valuable. See more on free College Board and Khan Academy practice below.

# Practice with Khan Academy - It's free!

You can practice through the Daily Practice for SAT app or through Khan Academy's website.

Select the links for videos on Khan Academy and links to useful Khan Academy pages.

[Practice on Khan Academy's Website](https://www.khanacademy.org/sat) - <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

You can also type satpractice.org

❖ **SAT Tips and Strategies** - <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/new-sat-tips-planning>

Youtube video on Khan Academy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlveV0131Cw&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/new-sat-tips-planning/about-official-sat-practice-khan-academy/v/walk-through-sat-practice-platform>

**Sign in to your Khan Academy account by using your school gmail account:**

- Select **Sign In to CollegeBoard.org** to link your PSAT or SAT scores.
- Select **Choose Your Practice Schedule** for the test date you are practicing for.
- All students can access Khan Academy's world-class personalized SAT practice resources for free.
- Khan Academy will offer you practice based on the level that has been set for you. If you took the PSAT in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Khan Academy can link your scores and customize your practice to focus on your needs. If you didn't take a PSAT test, then they will give you a series of tests to determine your practice level.
- You do not need to practice for the SAT Essay. The Essay is only done in 11<sup>th</sup> grade with the SAT. The PSAT 9 and 10 do not have an essay section on the test.

## SAT and PSAT Test Taking Tips – From Khan Academy

**The big day is finally here:** you've studied, you've practiced, and you've gotten a good night's sleep. The last hurdle is just to take the test! One key to overcoming Test Day anxiety is to **have a plan**.

### The Night Before:

- **Relax!** There are a lot of good reasons NOT to study the night before Test Day. Marathoners don't go for a run before Race Day, and mental marathoners like you shouldn't study for more than an hour on the day before you take the SAT. Your brain needs to rest in order to do its best. Read a book or hang out with a friend or two.
- **Avoid screen time.** You're going to need to get a good night's sleep, and bright screens (televisions, phones, movies) will wake up your brain and make it more difficult to drift off at an early hour.
- **Have a healthy dinner.** Drink lots of water and load up with complex carbohydrates, just like marathon runners do: potatoes, pasta, and rice are good choices here, as well as protein and vegetables.

### Test Morning:

- Wake up early and have a healthy breakfast. Here are a few good choices: eggs, toast, cereal, bagel, fruit, juice, cheese, milk.
- If you drink coffee or tea, then stick to your routine. If you don't drink a caffeinated beverage every day, though, Test Day isn't the time to start. You need calm, slow-burning, consistent energy today.
- Get to school on time. Testing will start right away!

## SAT and PSAT Test Taking Tips – From Khan Academy

**Here are some things you can do that might make you more confident and comfortable on Test Day. Keep in mind that everyone is different, and all of these don't work for everyone, so it's always better to try them out before you actually use them on Test Day.**

### For the Math Test:

- **Underline key parts of the problem.** "I was making silly mistakes because I didn't read carefully what the questions were asking. For example, instead of solving for  $2x$ , I might have solved for  $x$ . When I started underlining the part of the prompt that was the actual question, I dramatically decreased my number of silly mistakes!"
- **Make sure you are answering the question being asked.** "Always double check to make sure you're answering the right question!"
- **Order of difficulty** "Sections in the Math Test increase in difficulty as you go along: the questions start out easier, then slowly get harder, with the hardest questions at the end of the section. Also - the Math sections always have a few grid-ins (student-produced response questions) after the multiple choice questions, and the first few grid-ins are always easier than the last few multiple choice ones, so don't waste time on the hardest multiple choice before picking up some easier points in the grid-ins"
- **Every question on the PSAT is worth the same.** "Focus on getting the easy and medium questions correct first before taking a crack at harder questions."
- **If you don't know how to do a question, skip it and come back or fill in an answer.** "Sometimes, things don't "click," and that's alright. Just keep going and go back to the question later. Most of the time you'll realize that it was actually super easy, and your brain just needed to reset!"

## SAT and PSAT Test Taking Tips – From Khan Academy

### For the Reading Test:

- **Read the questions quickly before reading the passage.** "I like to circle and underline names and weird words in the questions before reading the passage. I don't try to actively remember them while I read, but my brain seems to pay more attention to those things anyway."
- **Don't over-annotate.** "I used to spend all this time writing notes in the margins that would end up not being helpful for any of the questions. Now I like to circle or underline the most important parts of each paragraph, and maybe jot a + or a - or a check. Sometimes a word or two, maybe a ! or a ? - but that's it."
- **Read actively.** "I always ask myself what the point of each paragraph is after I read it, and I challenge myself to answer that question before I start reading the next paragraph. That way, I keep checking my understanding and I keep myself engaged."

### For the Writing & Language Test:

- **Simplify complicated sentences.** "Some sentences are so long and confusing! I find it really helpful to identify the subject and the verb of more complicated sentences and cross out extra stuff like prepositional clauses beginning with of, for, about, with, etc..."

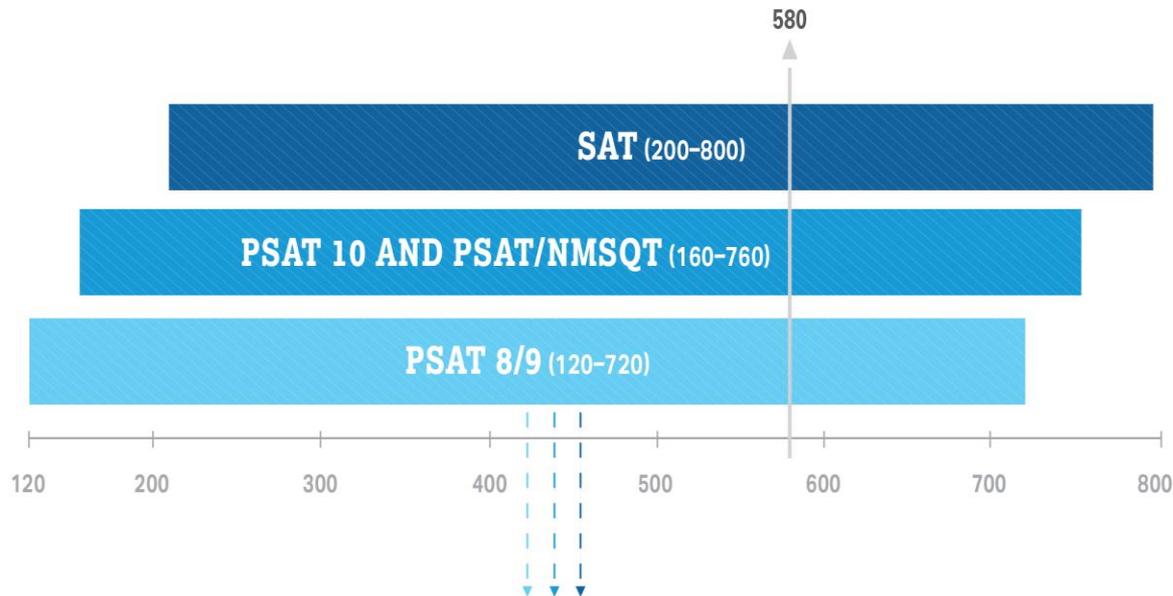
## SAT and PSAT Test Taking Tips – From Khan Academy

### For the whole test:

- **Don't leave anything blank!** “There is no penalty for guessing, so if you don't know an answer, go ahead and guess – you might get lucky!”
- **Use the process of elimination.** “Crossing out choices as you go along really helps when you get that feeling that you might need to guess. Every time you confidently eliminate an option, your chance of selecting the correct answer out of the remaining options is higher. Even if you have no idea how to answer a question, try to eliminate any obviously wrong choices – and then guess from the remaining ones.”
- **Cover up the choices.** “I always try to come up with an answer on my own before I even look at the choices. This helps me make sure that I don't get distracted by answer choices that look good before I have a chance to figure it out for myself.”
- **Pace yourself.** “It can be hard to get through each section in the limited time that you have, much less get the right answers and double check everything! Skip questions that are going to take longer and come back to them if you have time. Don't spend more than 1.5 minutes on any question on your first pass through.”
- **Trust yourself.** “When I was taking practice tests, I had no problem getting the sections done in time, but then I'd spend the extra minutes reviewing and second-guessing my first answers. I found I often would switch from the right answer to a wrong one just because I doubted myself!”
- **Bubble in batches.** “I use a system that helps me avoid accidentally bubbling in the wrong answers. I complete five questions (circling my answer choices on the test itself), and then I bubble the answers in on the answer sheet. I think it also saves time. It's inefficient to bubble in answers after every question - think of all that hand movement! But don't wait until the end of the test to bubble in everything, or you might panic – or even run out of time before you have a chance to enter all your answers!”
- **Use any extra time wisely.** “If you find yourself with extra time at the end of a section, make good use of it. No, it isn't fun to re-read all of those questions, but you'll be so glad if you catch any mistakes. The same goes for the answer grid - make sure your answer choices are in the right bubbles!”

# How Does the PSAT Connect to the SAT?

That means the score students get on the PSAT is the same score they would have gotten on the SAT if they'd taken it on the same day.



Grade-level benchmarks will indicate if students are making "on target" progress toward the SAT benchmark.

# SAT Score Range Values by Grade

Score Range Values for Red/Yellow/Green Indicators on Section, Test, and Subscores

		Section Scores			Test Scores			
		Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math	Reading	Writing and Language	Math		
SAT	Red	200–450	200–500	10–20	10–20	10–22		
	Yellow	460–470	510–520	21–29	21–30	22.5–31		
	Green	480–800	530–800	30–40	31–40	31.5–40		
11th grade	Red	160–420	160–470	8–19	8–18	8–20.5		
	Yellow	430–450	480–500	20–28	19–28	21–29.5		
	Green	460–760	510–760	28–38	29–38	30–38		
10th grade	Red	160–400	160–440	8–18	8–17	8–19.5		
	Yellow	410–420	450–470	19–26	18–26	20–27.5		
	Green	430–760	480–760	27–38	27–38	28–38		
9th grade	Red	120–380	120–420	6–18	6–16	6–18		
	Yellow	390–400	430–440	19–25	17–25	18.5–25.5		
	Green	410–720	450–720	26–36	26–36	26–36		
8th grade	Red	120–360	120–400	6–17	6–16	6–17.5		
	Yellow	370–380	410–420	18–23	17–23	18–24		
	Green	390–720	430–720	24–36	24–36	24.5–36		

		Subscores						
		Command of Evidence	Words in Context	Expression of Ideas	Standard English Conventions	Heart of Algebra	Problem Solving and Data Analysis	Passport to Advanced Math
SAT	Red	1–6	1–6	1–6	1–5	1–6	1–6	1–6
	Yellow	7–10	7–11	7–10	6–10	7–11	7–11	7–11
	Green	11–15	12–15	11–15	11–15	12–15	12–15	12–15
11th grade	Red	1–6	1–5	1–6	1–6	1–6	1–7	1–7
	Yellow	7–10	6–10	7–10	7–10	7–11	8–11	8–11
	Green	11–15	11–15	11–15	11–15	12–15	12–15	12–15
10th grade	Red	1–6	1–5	1–6	1–5	1–6	1–6	1–6
	Yellow	7–9	6–9	7–9	6–9	7–10	7–10	7–10
	Green	10–15	10–15	10–15	10–15	11–15	11–15	11–15
9th grade	Red	1–5	1–4	1–5	1–5	1–6	1–6	N/A
	Yellow	6–9	5–10	6–10	6–9	7–10	7–10	N/A
	Green	10–15	11–15	11–15	10–15	11–15	11–15	N/A

## College Board Information

The College Board is the company that provides SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9, AP Tests and Clep Tests for College.

- The College Board website is: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- PSAT for Students and Parents Help Desk: [\(866\)-433-7728](tel:8664337728)

# Thank You and Good Luck!

Watch your emails for more information on testing.

Please email me at [tneweth@almontschools.org](mailto:tneweth@almontschools.org)  
if you have any questions.