PSAT Scores
Wadsworth High School
PSAT – Quick Facts

- Per the College Board, the New PSAT measures what you learn in high school and what you need to succeed in college
- Helps students to form a game-plan for success in the college admissions process
- Highly recommended that all Juniors take the exam due to the National Merit Competition. Start taking this exam as early as Freshman year if your school offers it!
- No penalty for incorrect answers
- 4 answer choices
- No Essay
PSAT vs. SAT

- The SAT is about 1 hour longer and includes the “optional” Essay (3 hours and 50 minutes)
- Historically the PSAT has included slightly easier math concepts and no trigonometry
- Both tests include the same question types and sections, except for the essay
- Both tests include 4 answer choices for multiple choice questions and there is NO penalty for guessing
Scoring

- The two sections of the SAT, Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math, are scored on a scale of 160-760 points.
- The total score is a sum of the two section scores and ranges from 320 – 1520 points.
- College Board also provides test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores in order to provide additional feedback on your readiness level.
  - 3 test scores on a scale of 8-38 points are provided: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math.
  - 2 cross-test scores on a scale of 8-38 points are provided based on selected questions in the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math tests.
  - 7 subscores on a scale of 1-15 are provided:
    - 2 Reading and Writing and Language subscores: Command of Evidence and Words in Context.
    - 2 Writing and Language subscores: Expressions of Ideas and Standard English Conventions.
    - 3 Math subscores: Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and Passport to Advanced Math.
Who will see your PSAT score?

- Your High School
- Your High School District (in many cases)
- States (in many cases)
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)
- National Hispanic Recognition Program
- National Scholarship Service
- Telluride Seminar Scholarships
- Colleges do not receive scores
Understanding your PSAT Results

Hi, Ima B. Student
School Name: John F. Kennedy High School, School Code: 123456
2015, Grade 10
Student ID: 24068907
Optional Code: #00
Access Code: A02670146P

PSAT/NMSQT
Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

Your Score Report

Get your full report online
studentscores.collegeboard.org

SAT” Practice
Connect to FREE, world-class SAT practice online on khanacademy.org/sat

AP” and Course Work
See which AP courses may be a good match for you

Register for the SAT
Select an SAT test date and register for it now
Understanding your PSAT Results

Your Section & Composite Scores
Are you on track?
National Percentile & Overall benchmarks.

More Detailed Performance Measurements
Test Scores, Subscores, and Cross-Test Scores.
Understanding your PSAT Results

Questions & Answer Explanations Are Available Online: studentscores.collegeboard.org
National Merit Scholarship Competition

- Sponsored By the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- A very rigorous competition. Out of around 1.5 million entrants, about 50,000 qualify for recognition. Around 9,700 students receive an award.
- The Selection Index is different for each state and is based on the student scores within that state.
- Only Juniors can enter the competition. Sophomores and Freshmen do not qualify.
- Whether or not you receive a scholarship, it is an honor to be commended, named a semifinalist, or a finalist.

To enter National Merit Scholarship Corporations competitions, you must:
- 1. be a full-time high school student;
- 2. graduate the following year and enroll in college full-time;
- 3. complete grades 9-12 in four years; and
- 4. be a U.S. citizen.
Now that I understand my score, what’s next?

1. Visit CollegeBoard.org and take a look at the average SAT or ACT score for students who were accepted to your dream school(s). How far are you from that goal?

2. Consider why you may not have done as well as you’d hoped. Have you previously studied with a tutor for the SAT or ACT? Was the test more arduous than you expected?

3. Make a game plan! Most students take the SAT or ACT 2 to 3 times and work with a tutor to prep for the exam.
Sophomores

✓ Speak to counselors about how you can enroll for the PSAT/EXPLORE. Your junior year, the PSAT will double as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or NMSQT.
- Highly suggested in your Junior year but encouraged in Sophomore year.

✓ Anticipate junior year SAT/ACT tests
- Junior year is when most students take the SAT/ACT for the first time.

✓ Start a college search
- By starting to think about what schools you are interested in, you can start to plan on how to achieve the SAT scores and/or ACTs scores particular schools are looking for.
Juniors

- Strive for the most competitive GPA and take a challenging course load.

- Colleges view extracurricular commitments favorably—quality over quantity.

- Take the PSAT (October) because this is the year it REALLY counts.

- Begin narrowing down your choices of colleges.

- Start your SAT and ACT Preparation as early as the summer before your Junior Fall semester and by the latest your Junior Spring semester.

- Register for your SATs and ACTs—avoid late fees and have the opportunity to choose your testing location early.
Resources For Students

- School Counselors
- Khan Academy- Partnered with College Board to offer free practice sessions and informational videos.
  - Visit www.khanacademy.org to sign up
- Online test prep: practice test questions
- Tutoring
In Closing...

Review your scores and utilize resources!
Prepare for the ACT and SAT!
See your School Counselor with any questions!