

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caretakers of Juniors & Sophomores:

We are writing to provide you with information regarding the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Basic Information Regarding the PSAT Administration

- Day/Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023 **(The exam is only offered once per year.)**
- Time: Arrive between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. The administration will begin promptly at 8:05 a.m.
- Note: The PSAT is a standardized test. No student is allowed to leave the exam before the end of the fully allotted time. It is difficult to predict when the exam will be finished; therefore, we suggest that students plan to be in the exam until at least noon. Students pre-approved by the College Board for the accommodation of extended time should plan to be in the exam longer.

Registering for the PSAT

- Students wishing to register for the PSAT will do so online.
- Students will use NRHS's Total Registration site to register. The following link can be used to access NRHS's Total Registration site: [Click Here](#).
- The fee for the exam is \$40.
- The registration period will open on **Monday, August 21st** and will remain open through **Monday, September 4th**.
- The registration site closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 4th.
- A debit or credit card can be used to pay registration fees. If preferred, the fee can also be paid by check.
- Be sure to respond to all questions on the registration site. **Registration is not complete until students have printed the confirmation page that is provided at the end.**
- The registration site includes links to the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide 2023 and to the College Board's PSAT Practice page.

Who may want to take the PSAT? Why might one want to take the PSAT?

The PSAT is a very useful tool for students who plan to continue their education at the postsecondary level. The exam measures skills related to reading, mathematics, and writing. North Reading High School recommends that any members of the **Class of 2025** who plan to continue their education at the postsecondary level take the exam. The experience of taking the exam and the results will help students prepare for the SAT. Information related to a student's results are detailed and personalized. Once results are received (*typically in November*), students can access free exam preparation tools offered by the College Board and its partner, Khan Academy. While it is difficult to give "one size fits all" advice, in general, it is recommended that juniors take the SAT for the first time in the spring (*i.e. March, May or June*) of their junior year. In addition, any junior who performs extremely well on the PSAT may qualify for the initial round of the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Please note that any student in the **Class of 2026** can also take the exam. This administration serves as an "extra practice" for them. A student may not perform as well as a sophomore as he/she would as a junior; however, please keep in mind that the results of the exam are shared

with the student and the school and are not typically used for any other purpose. Whether to take the exam as a sophomore for “extra practice” is a personal decision; therefore, if a sophomore and his/her parents/guardians decide that waiting one more year to take the PSAT would be best, it is perfectly fine. Students who take the PSAT as sophomores are not considered part of the National Merit Scholarship Competition. A student would have to take the PSAT again as a junior if he or she wished to attempt to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

The Day of Testing:

Students should arrive at school on the testing day between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.. The "gymnasium entrance" will be used on test day. Students will be directed to their assigned testing locations. Please also note that classroom assignments are typically posted near the Media Center on the day before the exam. Students will also be able to check on the morning of the exam.

What to bring on exam day?

There are only a few things you really need to bring on test day, and a lot of things you'll be better off leaving at home. Be sure to bring:

- **Your fully charged district-issued Chromebook. You should already have the Bluebook App installed on your Chromebook. If you do not see this, please contact your Guidance Counselor. You must have the app installed before test day.**
- **A power cord. We cannot guarantee you'll have access to an outlet during testing. Your device should be able to hold a charge for 3–4 hours.**
- A pencil or pen.
- Scratch paper will be provided—do not bring your own.
- An approved calculator. There's a graphing calculator built into the Bluebook app, but you can bring your own if you like.
- An external mouse if you use one.
- An approved photo ID if you're homeschooled.

Nice to Have

- A watch (please note that smartwatches and fitness trackers are not allowed).
- Extra batteries for your calculator—you'll have to ask for permission in order to install them. They can't be on your desk during the test..
- A drink or snacks (for your break).
- Epinephrine auto-injectors (for example, EpiPens) are permitted without the need for accommodations. They must be placed in a clear bag and stored under your desk during testing. For policies on other medications and medical devices, contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office.
- Mobile phones will be collected before the exam and may not be accessed until the exam administration has concluded.

Prohibited Items (*Please leave these items at home. Prohibited items include, but aren't necessarily limited to*):

- Audio players or recorders, tablets, laptops, notebooks, Bluetooth devices (e.g., wireless earbuds/headphones), or any other personal computing devices;
- Separate timers of any type (e.g., a timer that would sit on desk);
- Cameras or any other photographic equipment;
- Highlighters, or mechanical or colored pencils;
- Books or references of any kind;
- Compasses, rulers, protractors, or cutting devices;
- Headphones, earbuds, or earplugs;
- Unacceptable calculators that have computer-style (QWERTY) keyboards, use paper tape, make noise, or use a power cord.

*** Students are required to complete the exam during their scheduled time. It is very difficult to predict exactly what time the exam will end. Because students are not allowed to leave until the conclusion of their allotted time, it is strongly recommended that they do not make commitments (e.g., work or athletics) before noon on the day of the exam. Please also note that students who are approved for extended time by the College Board will have a longer testing session.

Preparation and Resources

[CLICK HERE](#) for sample questions and practice test answer explanations.

See this [link for the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide 2023](#), which also includes practice questions.