

# Calvary Christian Academy

## Facts for PSAT and SAT Test Taking



### Facts for CCA students taking the PSAT and SAT

#### **PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)**

- Calvary offers the PSAT/NMSQT to all 10<sup>th</sup> graders. This test is administered at CCA and is given in the Fall on a Saturday morning.
- Test Registration forms will be sent home in the Spring. Students must register and pay the fee in order to take the PSAT.
- Juniors are also eligible to take the PSAT. They may choose to take the test in order to qualify for the National Merit Program OR for additional SAT practice.
- We encourage all our 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take the PSAT as it will help to prepare them for the SAT by giving them a detailed interactive score report.

#### **SAT (test for college admissions)**

- All students who are planning on attending College should take the SAT.
- Students who plan on applying to College the Fall of their Senior year should take the SAT in the Spring.
- Students can take the SAT as many times as they would like.
- CCA offers the SAT twice during the school year. It is administered on a Saturday morning usually during the months of November and May. If you choose to take the SAT on another date you will need to pick another test site.
- Students need to register for the SAT on [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

#### **ACT (American College Testing Program)**

- Another option for college admissions standardized testing.
- The ACT is not offered at CCA. You can find test sites and more information at: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

#### **SAT Subject Tests**

- Students typically choose which tests to take depending upon [college](http://college) entrance requirements for the schools to which they plan to apply.
- Subject Tests are not offered at CCA. Students will need to choose a testing site at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



# Typical Timeline for College Entrance Testing

(Taken from [www.collegexpress.com](http://www.collegexpress.com))

## Freshman year

You just began your high school career, so take it easy. Don't worry too much about preparing for standardized tests like the SAT or ACT because you still have plenty of time to study for them later on. Instead, focus on starting your high school life on the right foot! Look into the various classes, clubs, and sports your school offers and really dive in and do the best work you can in the hardest courses you can handle. You need not fret about the standardized tests just yet.

## Sophomore year

### **October: Take the PSAT**

The PSAT is a "preliminary" test that provides a rough estimate of your potential SAT score, so you don't need to invest *too* much time or energy in worrying about it. It is a practice test.

## Junior year

### **September through August: Take the SAT or ACT**

### **October: Take the PSAT/NMSQT if you haven't already**

### **October through August: Take or Retake your SAT or ACT if needed**

In case you are dissatisfied with your first score (which is true for most students), there are multiple chances for you to retake the SAT or the ACT throughout the school year. Be sure to check out each company's website for registration and their corresponding test dates.

**A note about retaking your standardized tests:** Though you definitely want to get the best standardized test scores you can so you have a better shot at scholarships and getting admitted to your top colleges, make sure you have realistic expectations about your retakes. You will need to double-down on your studying and really target your problem areas to improve your score. Keep in mind that you probably won't see any huge jumps either; the average score increase for SAT retakes, for example, is 40 points. There's also a chance your score might even go *down* with a retake; the College Board reports that 55% of students increase their SAT score, 35% see a decrease, and 10% stay the same.

## Senior year

### **November: Last SAT for early birds**

When applying Early Action or Early Decision, the last opportunities for you to take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests are in November. But, again, that may be too late, depending on where you're applying early. So you might want to take the SAT in October just to be sure.

### **October: Last ACT for early birds**

If you are applying to colleges Early Action or Early Decision, the latest you can take the ACT is in October—though that might be too late for some early deadlines. So you can take the September test to be safe.

Remember: you'll need to register a month in advance too.

### **December: Last SAT and ACT for forever**

For Regular Decision applicants, the *very* last test dates for both of these standardized tests are in December. This is the absolute last resort for anyone who is still unhappy with their scores if they've already taken the test—or if they haven't taken them at all. Though, again, keep in mind it takes a few weeks to get your scores, so you may be cutting it close with even your Regular Decision deadlines. It may be worth shooting for an earlier test date.

# PSAT/NMSQT

PSAT – all 10<sup>th</sup> graders

PSAT/NMSQT – 11<sup>th</sup> graders that choose to take the PSAT again for scholarship opportunity



Saturday, October 13, 2018

Please take note of the SATURDAY testing date.

Testing is optional, but highly recommended.

<p><b>What is the PSAT/NMSQT?</b></p> <p>The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical thinking skills that are important for success in college, including critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT enables students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• get feedback about critical academic skills</li> <li>• seek information from colleges</li> <li>• enter scholarship competitions</li> <li>• practice for the SAT Reasoning Test</li> <li>• initiate the college-planning process</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reason for taking the PSAT/NMSQT?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PSAT/NMSQT lets you compare your ability to other college-bound students.</li> <li>• Access to CollegeBoard Khan Academy</li> <li>• Taking the PSAT/NMSQT helps you plan for college. You can get an idea of how you will do on a college admissions test and can find colleges that see students like you.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Services for Students with Disabilities</b></p> <p>Decisions on accommodations are made solely by The CollegeBoard Services for Students with Disabilities. Eligibility must be approved by the CollegeBoard prior to testing.</p> <p><b>Please check the appropriate box on the attached form:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My child is approved by CollegeBoard and would like to use his/her accommodations on the PSAT/NMSQT exam.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My child is approved by CollegeBoard but would like to test in the regular classroom.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>	<p><b>Helpful Score Reports</b></p> <p>In January, your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report and test book will be returned to you. Your score report will include your critical reading, math and writing skills; score ranges; percentiles; and Selection Index (critical reading + math + writing skills scores), which NMSC uses as an initial screen of the large number of entrants to its competitions. Your score report will show the correct answers, your answers, difficulty level of each question, math content involved, skills that need strengthening.</p> <p><b>The PSAT Scores may help students:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess his/her ability to do college work</li> <li>• Firm up college plans with parents</li> <li>• Predict his/her college entrance exams scores for the SAT exam</li> <li>• Become familiar with the testing format of the SAT exam</li> <li>• Receive materials for college through the Student Search Service of the CollegeBoard.</li> <li>• Qualify for the National Merit Scholarships and Achievement Scholarships Junior year</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cost &amp; Registration Deadline</b></p> <p><b>Cost of Test: \$15</b> Please make checks payable to CCA.</p> <p><b>Registration deadline:</b> Please return the attached registration form to the High School Office by <u>Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup></u>.</p>	



# Calvary Christian Academy

## PSAT/NMSQT Registration Form



### PSAT/NMSQT

**PSAT** – all 10<sup>th</sup> graders

**PSAT/NMSQT** – 11<sup>th</sup> graders that choose to take the PSAT again for scholarship opportunity

**Test Date:** Saturday, October 13, 2018

**Cost:** \$15 (please make checks payable to CCA)

**Please return this form and payment to the High School Office by Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Services for Students with Disabilities

Decisions on accommodations are made solely by The CollegeBoard Services for Students with Disabilities. Eligibility must be approved by the CollegeBoard prior to testing.

**Please check the appropriate box:**

- My child is approved by CollegeBoard and would like to use his/her accommodations on the PSAT/NMSQT exam.
- My child is approved by CollegeBoard but would like to test in the regular classroom.
- Not applicable

**Note: Testing is optional, but highly recommended.**