

Understanding College Preparatory Testing Options

PSAT/NMSQT

The College Board website states that the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualify Test is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. This national test is offered once a year on the second Wednesday and Saturday of October. The Redmond High School Counseling office will offer this test.

It also gives you a chance to enter the NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools. The scholarship/recognition programs include National Merit Scholarship Corporation, National Hispanic Recognition Program, National Scholarship Service, and The Telluride Association. For additional information, go to www.collegeboard.com.

SAT Prep

This is a complete package program, offering both a practice test and a preparation course for the SAT. This is also beneficial for students getting ready to take the PSAT. Analytical tools for mathematical concepts, problem solving, critical reading, and vocabulary are taught. Essay writing, grammar, geometry, and algebra topics are included in the course. The course is designed to decrease test anxiety and familiarize the students with test directions, types of questions, and test-taking strategies.

For registration, course and test dates, prices, and additional information, please visit www.satprep.org or phone 425-823-1370.

SAT

According to the Wikipedia website the SAT is a standardized test for college admissions in the United States. The SAT is owned, published and developed by the College Board which is a non-profit organization in the United States. The SAT measures the student's critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills. It is a 3 hour and 45 minute test. The maximum score for a SAT is 2400.

The Redmond High School offers a practice SAT (called a Mock SAT) twice a year. The MOCK SAT is another way to practice taking the SAT before registering for the official SAT test. (You will register for the official SAT test through the College Board website.) The Mock test scores are not distributed to anyone other than the student. The format for conducting the test mimics the real test so the student understands what they need to bring to the test, practice the timing of the different sections, and experience the question material under pressure. Two weeks after taking the practice test, there will be a Score Back session where the student learns how to interpret the results, focus on improvements of the skills, and learn scoring improvement techniques. For additional information, go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAT>, www.collegeboard.com.

ACT

The ACT is a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States. The ACT consists of four sections: English, math, reading and science reasoning and is 3 hours long. There is an optional writing essay but the student would have to register separately for that test which would add an additional 30 minutes. Each section of the test is scored between 1- 36. Those scores are then averaged to an overall score of 1- 36. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States accept the ACT.

The Redmond High School offers the practice ACT twice a year. The practice ACT test readies the student for taking the real ACT test. The students will only have to register once to take the ACT test and essay. The test scores are not distributed to anyone other than the student. The format for conducting the test mimics the real test so the student understands what they need to bring to the test, practice the timing of the different sections, and experience the question material under pressure. Two weeks after taking the practice test, there will be a Score Back session where the student learns how to interpret the results, there is focus on improvements of the skills, and learn scoring improvement techniques. The ACT testing strategies will be different from the SAT strategies. For additional information; go to www.act.org; www.actstudent.org.

When students register to take the Official ACT that formally gets submitted to colleges, they are only registering for the 4 section multiple choice test. They must do a separate registration for the ACT essay. Not all colleges require or even request the essay, so ACT had made it an entirely separate portion of the test. We replicate the same type of process by allowing students the option on taking the essay or not. With the SAT, the essay is automatically included within the 10 sections of the test so SAT test takers always take the essay. We always advise students to register for the essay with the ACT, just to have it done. That way if they are still deciding where to send scores, they have the essay score if needed.