January 2021 PSAT/NMSQT®

For 9th, 10thand 11th graders
January 26th, 2021



1

When will Arete administer the PSAT?

Arete Preparatory Academy will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT® to all 9th, 10th and 11th grade students on Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 during school hours.

Students should be in their assigned classrooms by 8:20am to begin the test on time.

2

What is the PSAT/NMSQT® ?

- The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a standardized test administered by the College Board and cosponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) in the United States.

3

What is the purpose of the PSAT?

- The purpose of the test is to give all students an opportunity to experience taking a college readiness test. Even if your child has not yet decided to attend college, I urge you to make sure your student is in attendance and participates on January 26th.

4

How do I register my student and pay for the test?

Your College Counseling Contribution, paid at the beginning of the year, has already covered the cost of this test. If you have yet to contribute, please do so on the Arete Prep Configio site.

A test has been pre-ordered for every 9-11th grade student. You do not need to pre-register.

5

How can students prepare for the PSAT?



Your student can access the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT® study booklet on the CollegeBoard website by searching "Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT® 2020" on a web browser.



We will be providing a hard copy of this study guide to students at the beginning of the second semester during the HL and math classes as we have dedicated some school time for test prep.



High school students may also access test prep via Khan Academy, which is in partnership with the CollegeBoard to provide students with free, individualized test preparation.

6

Attention 11th students and parents: Clarification on the National Merit Scholarship Qualification

- We highly encourage all 11th graders to prepare for the January 26th test. Only 11th grade students may be identified as National Merit Scholars based on the PSAT/NMSQT®. The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Please note that 9th and 10th graders are not eligible for the National Merit Qualifying Scholarships.

7

How do scores arrive?

Your student's Score Report for the PSAT/NMSQT® will arrive here at school later this spring for distribution.

You can also access your scores through CollegeBoard.

- If you already have an account, then your scores should automatically populate once available.
- If you do not have an account, directions on how to create one will accompany your score reports and be distributed to you in the Spring.

8

Where can I find additional information about the PSAT?

- If you would like additional information about the PSAT/NMSQT® and how it will be administered at our school, please contact the College Counseling department by email.
  - Ms. Arguello, Lead College Counselor rarguello@areteprepacademy.org
  - Ms. Parsons, College Counselor cparsons@areteprepacademy.org
- You can find information about the PSAT at the CollegeBoard website: https://www.collegeboard.org/

9

What do I need for test day?

#2 pencils

Approved calculator - Click here to see a list of approved calculators

Water

Snacks



10

What needs to stay in my locker?

- Backpacks and gym bags should stay in your locker.
- NO Cellphones.
  - If you are found with a cell phone during testing, your test will be cancelled, and you will be removed from the testing room.
- Anything that is not the approved materials needs to stay out of the testing room.



11

I'm an online student. Where do I go?

Online students will have a designated classroom separate from their in-person peers. Online students will need to be picked up from school immediately after testing completes as they will not be able to join in-person peers in their remaining class of the day.

All juniors will be testing in the gymnasium. Online Juniors may request a seat toward the back or side of the gym to allow for additional space from peers. All students are responsible for maintaining social distancing from each other.

Test locations will be communicated to students a week prior to testing. Insignia with more information will be posted around the school and through Google Classrooms.

If you still have question, please contact Ms. Arguello, Testing Coordinator at rarguello@areteprepacademy.org

12

9th and 10th Graders: Advice for test day

Study (if you would like) to help you be acquainted with the test.	• This is encouraged, but NOT mandatory.
The PSAT is the same test the 11th graders are taking.	• You may not be familiar with all the content on the PSAT and this is okay because you haven't learned the content yet. Just do your best to answer the questions you know and can work out.
If you don't know an answer, skip it.	• Your data at the end of the test will provide feedback to the school and how we can improve our curriculum. We want to know what you need to review or what you haven't learned, yet. So, skip it if you don't know it.
Do your best.	• This practice test is a learning opportunity for you. Answer what you are able, skip what you don't know and be respectful of peers that are still working if you finish early.

13



- Test Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021
- Time: Be on campus and in your class by 8:20am; test will begin promptly at 8:20am
- Bring: #2 pencils, calculator, snack and drink
- Bring: Your lunch for after testing. There will not be any lunch orders through PSO on test day as the gym will be unavailable as a space to distribute food.

See you on test day!

14