

More students getting free, personalized SAT help



Delmar High School students are taking advantage of free, personalized SAT help by linking their College Board accounts to Khan Academy.

Since taking the PSAT last year, nearly 90 percent of Delmar High School's Class of 2018 members have linked their College Board accounts to the Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy – a free, online SAT preparation program available at satpractice.org that uses student PSAT scores to personalize study materials.

To achieve this high rate of participation, Delmar's school counselors meet with every student in every grade to ensure students understand the benefits of linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts. Counselors hold dedicated sessions to guide students through the process of creating and linking accounts. Additionally, Delmar's math and English classes use Khan Academy practice as part of their class work.

"It is made very clear to students that linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts provides them access to individualized SAT practice they may otherwise not get," said Lisa Morris, Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Delmar Middle and Senior high schools. "Students are practicing exactly the areas in which they struggle to help them find a more successful outcome."

Khan Academy is available to all Delaware students and schools as they gear up for Delaware's School Day SAT on April 5.

Because the SAT aligns to the Delaware standards, the best way to practice for the new SAT will always be to take challenging courses in high school and to work hard in those courses. Students also can use Khan Academy to personalize SAT prep with a focus on areas their PSAT Score Reports identify as needing more work and to omit the time and frustration spent studying what they already know.

Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy includes full-length practice tests plus study and test-taking tips. It also includes practice questions and video lessons. College Board also offers an app called "Daily Practice for the new SAT" that allows students to submit pictures of their paper SAT practice tests for immediate scores and personalized daily practice questions.

"Students are quick to explore the Khan Academy website after linking to their College Board accounts," Morris said. "Some students work on practice tests immediately after linking."

Delmar's school counselors encourage students to use all the College Board tools available to them, including the college search option, local college information and college comparison tool. Through the website students can also research the median SAT scores for the colleges in which they are interested.

A number of Delaware schools are seeing the value of free, personalized SAT practice for students. **Middletown High School** in the **Appoquinimink School District** uses its grade 11 advisory class to allow students dedicated time to access Khan Academy. In preparation for the PSAT, Middletown also encourages all 9th and 10th grade students to register with Khan. **Caesar Rodney High School** in the **Caesar Rodney School District** is using Khan as part of its SAT Saturdays, which run through April.

Morris says she believes the greatest advantage to students linking College Board accounts to the Official SAT Practice through Khan Academy is the individualized practice; however, the tools have also elevated the school culture around the importance of doing well on the SAT.

“Students find the Official SAT practice beneficial in that it gives them all a way to practice for SATs – they appreciate that they are gaining access to individualized practice,” Morris said. “By making Khan Academy a priority, we are also creating a sense of priority around the SAT test in general.”

Students can access the free, personalized, interactive Khan Academy SAT practice tools at satpractice.org. For more information on the Delaware School Day SAT, visit www.doe.k12.de.us/sat.