

Understand

YOUR PSAT SCORES



WHERE TO FIND YOUR SCORES?

- Sign into your collegeboard.org account
 - Go to K-12 Score Reporting Portal
- Sign into Naviance
 - Go to About Me >My Stuff>Test Scores

WHAT IS MY TOTAL SCORE?

- The Total Score is the sum of your Reading/Writing and your Math Subscores.
- The score can be between 320-1520.
- This is what people are usually reporting when they tell you what they got on their PSAT.
- If you were to take the SAT tomorrow, you would likely score around the same score even though the SAT has a maximum of 1600 points.
- The average score at Bellarmine was 1037.
- Remember this test score never goes to colleges.
- You will also see 2 percentile ranks. You can ignore these. They are confusing and misleading.

WHAT ARE MY SUBJECT SCORES?

- Math ranges from 160-760
 - The average score at Bellarmine was 528.
- Reading/Writing ranges from 160-760
 - The average score at Bellarmine was 559.
- How well did you do?
 - 700's Excellent
 - 600's Above Average
 - 500's Average
 - 400's Need Work
- If you study and prepare yourself, you should be proud if you increase your score 150-200 points. It may be unrealistic to think you could increase it by 300 points.

WHAT ARE SUB SCORES?

The three subject scores for Reading/Writing and Math are then broken down into sub scores for the following areas:

- Command of Evidence
- Words in Context
 - Focus on Vocab
- Expression of Ideas.
 - Focus on Writing
- Standard English Conventions
 - Focus on Grammar
- Heart of Algebra
 - Focus on Algebra 1
- Problem Solving and Data
 - Focus on Arithmetic
- Passport to Advanced Math
 - Focus on Algebra 2

Eventually when you take the SAT, these scores are not important to colleges, but they can help you identify your strengths and where you need to improve.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION INDEX

- It is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships based off of the PSAT results of high school juniors. Sophomores do not qualify.
- The Index score is double the sum of your Math, Writing & Language, and Reading sub scores. (For most people this isn't very useful.)
- The index score this year in WA state for consideration for semifinalist or finalist is 220. WA has a high scoring population and tends to be more competitive.
- If you are around a 212 on the index, you might be commended as a Scholar for being in the top 3% of our nation, for recognition only. Colleges look admirably on those that are awarded as a scholar.
- Only about 3,000 students per year receive these scholarships.

THE RESULTS

The last page is a summary of all the questions on the PSAT.

- It is helpful to use this page to go back through your test booklet and see the individual questions and know how you scored.
- Your booklet will be returned to you in your formation classes when announced, or you can log into your collegeboard.org account to find them there.
- Look for patterns in your results. Were there any consistencies in certain subject areas?
- Keep in mind that the questions progressively got harder in each section. Did you run out of time? Were the end questions harder than the beginning questions?
- The PSAT & SAT tend to ask things in a way that is different than the way you are used to in school. This is why practicing for testing and becoming familiar with the SAT is important.

PREPARE FOR THE SAT

This is not an exhaustive list. Please see our counseling center for additional resources.

Online:

- Khan Academy offers students the ability to link for FREE your College Board account with their online tutoring services.
 - Access this through the website: <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-pre/collegeboard.org> site as well as through the collegeboard.org site.
- Kaplan has both online and in-person tutoring for the SAT and ACT
 - Website: <https://www.kaptest.com>

Tutoring:

- Rhema Educational Services (Formerly Brown Reading Systems) offers both SAT and ACT classes.
- Mimmi Beck offers small class instruction in SAT and ACT prep, an ACT diagnostic to assess if ACT is a better test, and assistance with Common App essays. She also offers Facetime Private Tutoring.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Not all colleges require testing for admission.
 - You should check with the colleges of your choice to find out if they are test blind (does not consider tests), test optional (will consider test scores if you would like them to be included), or whether they are required.
- Sign up to take **both** the SAT and the ACT in the spring of your junior year.
 - This timeframe is suggested to assure that you have taken the coursework that is covered in these tests.
 - Students often score better on one than the other, so we recommend you take both to find out which is easier for you.
- Find dates, locations, and fees online at each of their websites.
 - Sign up for the SAT at collegeboard.org
 - Sign up for the ACT at act.org
- Registration for these tests is usually 5-6 weeks prior to the test date.
- Testing companies will give you a choice to send your results directly to 4 of the colleges of your choice for free if you include them at the time of testing. This is optional. If you feel confident in your performance without knowing your scores, it may be an economical decision. However if you would like to make sure your scores meet your expectations, you could wait and submit your scores with your college applications.

THERE'S MORE!

- Study, study, study for the test that you did better on through the summer before your senior year.
- Sign up and retake whichever test you scored higher on in the late summer or fall of your senior year.
- If you still do not perform as well you would like on the 2nd attempt, you can retake the SAT or ACT again, but studies indicate any more than 3 times, performance tends to peak out and it may not benefit you.
- Now apply for your colleges in the fall of your senior year.

BELLARMINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
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