



September 2025:

On **Wednesday, October 15, 2025** Sophomores and Juniors will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) at Jenkintown Middle/High School during the regular school day. There is **no cost** to you for the test and there are no registration forms for you to complete. For Juniors, the PSAT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSQT). Taking the PSAT enables students to get feedback about academic skills, get information from colleges, and prepare for the SAT. Students receive their scores roughly, six weeks after the test along with individualized information about their specific answers on the test. Whether your child is thinking about attending a two- or four-year college, is going straight into the workforce, or isn't sure what they want to do after high school, the PSAT/NMSQT can help make their path clearer.

For Juniors only, The National Merit Scholarship Competition is determined by a score, called the Selection Index, on the Junior year PSAT. Based on those scores, Juniors can be named as National Merit Commended Students or as Semifinalists. Those who are named Semifinalists are put through a rigorous screening process to determine if they become National Merit Finalists.

#### **Taking the PSAT/NMSQT can also help your child to:**

- Enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program if they meet program requirements specified in the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide (only 11th graders are eligible for the National Merit Scholarship).
- See where they are and set a target for where they want to be.
- Practice and prepare for the SAT®.
- Find out what AP® courses they're ready to take.

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered in a **DIGITAL FORMAT** that will provide an overall easier testing experience for students. Your child will take the PSAT/NMSQT on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025**, using their own school-issued chrome book device.

**On test day, students should arrive with a fully charged chromebook with their chromebook charger.**

#### **Things you should know about the PSAT/NMSQT:**

1. The PSAT is an indicator of performance on the SAT
2. The PSAT scores are used as prerequisites for many Jenkintown Honors and AP courses; The PSAT helps assess academic skills necessary for college-level work
3. The only qualification for the National Merit Scholarship for Juniors comes from the score results of the PSAT
4. PSAT Scores will be available before winter break.

The **Fall 2025 Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT** provides valuable information on the PSAT/NMSQT. For more detailed information, please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf>. Per College Board, you will not be receiving a hard copy of the Official Student Guided - it is only available online.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the high school guidance counselor, Ms. Kafkalas at (215) 884-1801 or [kafkalac@jenkintown.org](mailto:kafkalac@jenkintown.org).

Thank you.

High School Guidance Department

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You do not need to register your student as we are giving the PSAT to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade students this year. Due to the length of the assessment and stress involved in taking the assessment, students will be **dismissed** for the day at the end of the assessment. This will likely be between 10:30 am and 11:30 am for regular testing time and between 11:30 pm and 1:10 pm for the extended time test takers.

## DIGITAL PSAT/SAT: What's Changing?



Taken on a laptop, tablet, iPad, desktop computer, or school-managed Chromebook



About 2 hours instead of 3, with more time per question



Shorter reading passages



A built-in calculator is allowed on the entire Math section

## What to Bring on PSAT/NMSQT Test Day

There are only a few things you really need to bring on test day, and a lot of things you'll be better off leaving at home. Be sure to bring:

- Your fully charged chromebook device.
- A power cord and/or a portable charger. We may not have enough extra chargers for everyone and we cannot guarantee you'll have access to an outlet during testing. Your device should be able to hold a charge for 3–4 hours.
- A pencil or pen.
- Scratch paper will be provided—do not bring your own.
- An approved calculator. There's a graphing calculator built into the app, but you can bring your own if you like.
- An external mouse if you use one - though it is not required.

## Taking the Test

- On test day, you'll connect to Wi-Fi, log in to Bluebook, and complete a short check-in process.
- Before the test starts, your proctor will read some instructions, collect any prohibited items, and give you a start code. You'll enter the code into Bluebook and the test will begin.
- The test has 2 sections—Reading and Writing, and Math—with a short break in between.
- Each section has 2 parts called modules, and each module is timed separately. You can move back and forth between questions in a module and review your answers until time expires.
- At the end of the test, Bluebook will submit your answers automatically. **Do not close your device until you see the "Congratulations!" screen.**
- If your submission fails for any reason, you'll see instructions in the app to complete your submission.