Preparing for PSAT/SAT
Presentation for Students & Families
February 6, 2019
Derby High School
Planning Committee

- Marty Pascale, Principal, DHS
- Ray Coplin, Assistant Principal, DHS
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- Adam Baker, School Counselor, DMS
- Anat Segal, School Counselor, DMS
- Dr. Matthew Conway, Jr., Superintendent
- Jen Olson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Derby’s Assessment Schedule

➢ **Grade 8:** PSAT 8/9 Spring
  ➢ (April 3)

➢ **Grade 9:** PSAT 8/9 Fall, Spring

➢ **Grade 10:** PSAT10 Fall, PSAT/NMSQT Spring

➢ **Grade 11:** PSAT/NMSQT Fall, SAT Spring

➢ **Grade 12:** SAT and SAT Subject test registered through College Board (by choice) and ACT
What is the PSAT?

The PSAT is the practice “pre” test for the SAT exam.

★ The SAT exam has been used for decades as the standard academic measure for high school students.
What does the SAT measure?

The SAT exam is based on a scale of 1600 points - your PSAT score is an indicator of how well your would score on the actual SAT.

Your score indicates two areas that were assessed - Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.
## Breakdown of PSAT & SAT scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
<th>MINIMUM/MAXIMUM PER SECTION</th>
<th>MAXIMUM SCORE PER TEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target Score</td>
<td>Reading &amp; Writing</td>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAT 8/9</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAT/NMSQT Grade 10/11</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2400 with essay
What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

- Standardized test that 10th and 11th graders can take
- The PSAT is used to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program as well as a practice test for the SAT’s.
- Scholarship eligibility for the state of CT criteria:
  - 740 (Reading & Writing)
  - 740 (Math)
  - Total score of 1480
PSAT QUICK FACTS

● The PSAT has three parts:
  ○ Reading (60 minutes, 47 questions)
  ○ Writing and Language (35 minutes, 44 questions)
  ○ Math (70 minutes, 48 questions)

● The PSAT is only given twice a year, usually on a Wednesday and a Saturday in October for those students not taking it at their local school.
SAT QUICK FACTS

- Administered 7 times a year in the U.S. at test centers
- As an Alliance District 100% of students the PSAT/SAT at no cost to parents. (AP exams as well)
- Students take the SAT for the first time in the spring of their junior year
- Most students pay a fee to take the SAT, but income-eligible students can take it for free with a fee waiver
- SAT connects your child to scholarship opportunities as well as to colleges that are looking for students like them
- Students are responsible for sending their scores electronically through their College Board account to colleges
What does my score mean?

Your score measures your college “readiness” in both subject areas.

- Moving target by grade
- Offers insight on personal strengths/areas of growth
What Information Can I Get From My Score Report?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Total Score</th>
<th>Essay Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1010</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 520 | 200–800 |
| Your Math Score |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 27 | 10–40 |
| Writing and Language |

| 26.0 | 10–40 |
| Math |

| Cross-Test Scores | 10–40 |
|-------------------|
| 24 |
| Analysis in History/Social Studies |

| 23 |
| Analysis in Science |

| 6 |
| Command of Evidence |

| 9 |
| Words in Context |

| 8 |
| Expression of Ideas |

| 9 |
| Standard English Conventions |

| 8 |
| Heart of Algebra |

| 9 |
| Problem Solving and Data Analysis |

| 7 |
| Passport to Advanced Math |

Nationally Representative Sample Percentile
SAT User Percentile

You’ve met the benchmark!
You’ve scored below the benchmark.
I have my printed score report. Why should I go on the College Board site?

- **PRACTICE FOR THE SAT:** Send your scores to Khan Academy® for a free, personalized SAT practice plan based on your test results.
- **SEARCH FOR COLLEGES, MAJORS, AND CAREERS:** Free tools to discover which colleges and programs are right for you.
- **QUALIFY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:** Use your PSAT/NMSQT score to access scholarships from National Merit Scholarship Corporation and others.
What Other Information Is Available to Me?

Full College Board Sample Score Report
How Do I Increase My Score?

The most obvious way to improve your score is to **attend school** regularly and to improve your academics here at DHS.

Additionally you may take the following action steps:

1. Create an account on **College Board**
2. Link to **Khan Academy**
   - Consistently practice the skills that have been identified as areas of weakness
3. Enroll in a **SAT prep course**
What Is Khan Academy?

- A non-profit educational organization with the goal of creating a set of online tools that help educate students.
- It produces short lessons in the form of YouTube videos.
How Do I Get A Khan Academy Account?

- You can create a free account by visiting KhanAcademy.org and clicking “Sign Up”
Linking your Khan Academy and College Board accounts

- SATpractice.org
- From your College Board account
What can an SAT Prep Course do for me?

1. Prepares students with the overall structure, format, and content of the SAT
   - ID weaknesses/strength areas
   - Set a score goal
   - Learn test strategies
   - Decrease anxiety on SAT day
   - Improve your test score
What kind of results do SAT prep courses offer?

Last year an SAT prep course was offered to DHS students in collaboration with Vin Madera. Students who took the course saw an average score increase of 88 points.
What SAT Score Do I Need To Get Into College?

❖ Every school has different admissions requirements
❖ SAT Scores are only one factor considered for admissions (GPA, class rank, extracurricular activities, etc)
❖ Community colleges do not require the SAT to be taken for acceptance, many job training programs do not require the SAT either.
❖ Connecticut state colleges (Western, Eastern, Central, Southern)
### Average Admitted SAT Range by College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCONN</td>
<td>1130 - 1340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>1430 - 1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinnipiac</td>
<td>990 - 1180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern CT State University</td>
<td>830 - 1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
<td>970 - 1170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becker College</td>
<td>890 - 1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern CT State University</td>
<td>1020-1190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Miami</td>
<td>1220-1420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston College</td>
<td>1270-1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Alabama</td>
<td>980-1230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers University-New Brunswick</td>
<td>1110 - 1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina University</td>
<td>910-1090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keene State</td>
<td>870-1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New Haven</td>
<td>950-1160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Student A**: 970-1040 = increase of 70 points
- **Student B**: 1050-1210 = increase of 160 points
- **Student C**: 1020-1080 = increase of 60 points
- **Student D**: 1210-1340 = increase of 130 points
Can I Participate This Year?

- The course will be offered again this year. There will be two sessions - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 5:00 PM and 5:15 - 7:15 PM

- Students are responsible for their own transportation

- There is no cost to families for the program if students complete the course thanks to grant funding.
Save the Date!

CT SAT Day
April 9, 2019

- 42 school days away!
- We are looking for Perfect Attendance on 4/9 --school-wide testing conditions to help students focus
- Post-test breakfast and pep rally

Make up tests April 23/24
SAT Score Data
How Am I Performing?

- For 9th grade, the national average is 860, state average is 856 and our district average is 733.

- For 10th grade, the national average is 933, state average is 921 and our district average is 824.

- For 11th grade, the national average is 1013, state average is 977 and the district average is 842.
What Is the District Doing About This?

- Curriculum Audit in Grades PK - 12 for ELA and Math
- Algebra I course for Grade 8 students
- Developing a Gifted and Talented Program
- Instructional coaching in Math at DHS with regional expert
- Intensive intervention and instructional support
- Fully funding SAT Prep Course
- Promoting regular school attendance
- BOE Sub committee Student Support Services
Next Steps: The Big Picture

- Have a plan - what do you want to do after high school?
- Have a conversation - speak with your parents/guardians, your counselor, your teachers about what your plan is.
- Set goals and achieve them!
- Visualize yourself in college. Visit schools or take virtual trips.

YouVisit Virtual Tour
Look for upcoming workshops

- Paying for College: Understanding the Financial Aid Process and the FASFA
- Applying for College: The Common App
- Visiting Colleges
Breakout Sessions by Grade Level

- Grade 8: Room 122
- Grade 9: Room 109
- Grade 10: Library
- Grade 11/12: Auditorium
Collegeboard.org

Video Link

Summary of the College Board Score Report and Other Tools To Help
Grade 8

- **Question:** My student is only in 8th grade, why is the PSAT important?

- **Answer:** The PSAT is an indicator of how well a student will do on the actual SAT, the 8/9 PSAT will give students information about what areas they need to practice and improve on. Students should access their score report online and then should begin practicing on Khan Academy. 8th grade scores will determine which level courses they will take at the High school.

- **Question:** What should I be doing now to prepare my student for college and career readiness?

- **Answer:** Start by completing the “College Planning” checklist in your folder. There are eight steps listed that will help students to be better prepared for their journey after high school.
Grade 9

Question: My student is only in 9th grade, why is the PSAT important?

Answer: The PSAT is an indicator of how well a student will do on the actual SAT, the 8/9 PSAT will give students information about what areas they need to practice and improve on. Students should access their score report online and then should begin practicing on Khan Academy.

Question: What should I be doing now to prepare my student for college and career readiness?

Answer: Start by completing the “College Planning” checklist in your folder. There are eight steps listed that will help students to be better prepared for their journey after high school.
Grade 9

Next Steps:

1. Review the steps outlined on the handout titled “College Planning” that is in your folder.
2. Have an open discussion with your student about what options and choices they will have after high school.
3. Research other career paths: military, career-training program (Porter and Chester, Lincoln Tech.), community college
4. Utilize the various search tools and programs on the internet: Naviance, FAFSA, College Board, National Merit Scholarship, NCAA Eligibility Center

QUESTIONS???
Question: My student is only in the 10th grade, why is the PSAT important?

Answer: The PSAT is an indicator of how well a student will do on the actual SAT, the PSAT will give students information about what areas they need to practice and improve on. Students should access their score report online and then should begin practicing on Khan Academy.

Question: What should I be doing now to prepare my student for college and career readiness?

Answer: Start by completing the “College Planning” checklist in your folder. There are nine steps listed that will help students to be better prepared for their journey after high school (please review the 9th grade steps on the front of the handout as well).
Grade 10

Next Steps:

1. Review the steps outlined on the handout titled “College Planning” that is in your folder.
2. Have an open discussion with your student about what options and choices they will have after high school.
3. Research other career paths: military, career-training program (Porter and Chester, Lincoln Tech.), community college
4. Utilize the various search tools and programs on the internet: Naviance, FAFSA, College Board, National Merit Scholarship, NCAA Eligibility Center
Question: My student scored ____ on the PSAT, now what?

Answer: The PSAT is an indicator of how well a student will do on the actual SAT, the PSAT will give students information about what areas they need to practice and improve on. Students should access their score report online and then should begin practicing on Khan Academy.

Question: What should I be doing now to prepare my student for college and career readiness?

Answer: Start by completing the “College Planning” checklist in your folder. There are twenty-four steps listed that will help students to be better prepared for their journey after high school - the steps are broken down by “season”
Next Steps:

1. Review the steps outlined on the handout titled “College Planning” that is in your folder.
2. Have an open discussion with your student about what options and choices they will have after high school.
3. Research other career paths: military, career-training program (Porter and Chester, Lincoln Tech.), community college
4. Utilize the various search tools and programs on the internet: Naviance, FAFSA, College Board, National Merit Scholarship, NCAA Eligibility Center
Grades 11 and 12

Questions?