



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

THE GUIDANCE DEPT. PRESENTS

College Admissions Testing Information

September 24, 2026

<https://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us/Departments/Guidance>

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Melissa Bellantonio

Adelphi University

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Tom Ehlers

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PSAT TEST FORMAT

KEY DETAILS

Duration

2 hours, 14 minutes

Format

Digital format

Sections

Reading/Writing &
Math

Max Score

1520

10th GRADE

Practice Focus

- All 10th graders are eligible to sit for the PSAT exam.
- The test is administered strictly for practice purposes only.

11th GRADE

PSAT/NMSQT®

- A preliminary version of the SAT.
- All 11th grade students should take the PSAT to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

I registered for the PSAT on 10/17, what should I bring ?

- ☐ **Admission Ticket:**

Your Schoolpay receipt is your admission ticket

- ☐ **Charged SCSD issued Chromebook:**

Review this [Help Document](#) prior to the exam to ensure your Bluebook App is up to date and working

- ☐ **Photo ID**

- ☐ **Approved Calculator**

- ☐ **2 sharpened No. 2 pencils**

SAT Information

TESTING INFO

How is it Administered?

Administered at school or test centers with a proctor—not at home.

Digital Transition

Transition completed in Spring 2024. All students now take the exam in the digital format only.

SAT EXAM TIMING

2h 14m Total
Down from 3 hours!

Breakdown

- 64 minutes for Verbal
- 70 minutes for Math

SCORING

1600 Scale

The SAT continues to be scored on the same traditional 1600 point scale.

Adaptive Design

The exam features multistage adaptive testing to tailor questions to student levels.

Advanced Placement Exams

Overview

AP exams are college-level tests administered by the College Board (makers of the SAT).

Students may take tests in one or more subjects.

Comprehensive course and test list available at collegeboard.org.

Scoring Scale

Scores are evaluated on a **five-point scale**:

5 — Highest Extremely well-qualified

1 — Lowest No recommendation

Key Details

\$99.00 Fee per exam

Schedule: Administered in May

Registration: Communicate with your child's teacher directly for registration options.

AP Capstone Diploma Program

AP Capstone Seminar & AP Capstone Research (NYS English)

Program Overview

AP Capstone is a diploma program being offered by the College Board designed to equip students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges.

"According to the College Board website, it 'cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions.'"

Program Requirements:

Enroll in both AP Capstone Seminar & AP Capstone Research & earn a 3 or higher on both exams.

In addition to that, the student would need to score a 3 or higher on four additional AP exams.

Why Take Advanced Placement Courses?

Academic Skills

Improve writing skills and problem solving techniques.

Rigorous Prep

Develop study habits for rigorous coursework at the college level.

Readiness

Demonstrate maturity and readiness for college.

College Credit & Standing

Students can earn college credits or advanced standing at some colleges and universities.

GPA Quality Point Boost

Students who take an AP course and sit for the exam will receive 1 additional quality point weighting to their GPA in that course.

Students with Disabilities

1

Separate Process Required

College Board and ACT require a separate process for testing accommodations for students with disabilities.

2

Account Verification

Create a College Board/ACT account to review accommodations you may have already been approved for.

3

School Application Assistance

The school can assist with applying on behalf of your child by written request of the parent/guardian. Please complete this form to request assistance:

<https://forms.gle/oVQpyoUfnK4NGDii6>

4

Eligibility & Guarantees

Testing accommodations from College Board and ACT are **not guaranteed**. The testing company determines final eligibility.

Guest Speaker

Melissa Bellantonio

Adelphi
University

- 01** How do colleges use testing scores for admissions purposes?
And for awarding scholarships?
- 02** What are test optional schools?
- 03** How do colleges use AP Scores?
- 04** Do colleges prefer SAT or ACT scores?

GUEST SPEAKER

Tom Ehlers

Method Learning

**Achieving Success on
SAT & ACT**

