

Dear Parents,

One of our key outcomes for students at Wheaton Academy is to help prepare them for the next steps in their educational journey, including helping them find a college that fits them well.

The PSAT suite of tests has moved to a digital platform. Going digital means a shorter test—closer to two hours than three— and an easier testing experience for students on Bluebook, College Board’s new digital testing app. Students will have more time per question, shorter reading passages, and access to a built-in graphing calculator that can be used on the entire math section. To become familiar with the digital format, your teen will have access to full-length practice tests in Bluebook as well as access to free Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy®. Please access this video for more information about the [Digital PSAT NMSQT](#) and the [Digital PSAT 8/9](#).

We will provide the opportunity for our freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to take the Digital PSAT suite of tests. This test provides several advantages to students and families as they seek to prepare for either the SAT or ACT in the college admissions process. This process will be for 9-11 graders; seniors will take the ACT that day and should look for more information in the WA weekly.

On Wednesday, October 23rd, our school will administer the Digital PSAT 8/9 to all freshmen and the Digital PSAT/NMSQT to all sophomores/juniors. These exams focus on the classroom skills and knowledge your child will need to be successful in college. The Digital PSAT 8/9 and Digital PSAT/NMSQT will assist Wheaton Academy to help your child in several ways:

- Test results show your child where his or her strengths are, what to work on to be college-ready, and how to stay on track from 9th – 12th grade.
- Get stronger with practice. After the test, your child can strengthen essential skills and knowledge for the PSAT/SAT with free personalized practice on Khan Academy® and full-length practice tests in Bluebook. To access, students should download Bluebook to their school devices.
- Online reports are provided to students and educators, allowing them to act on test results and get additional practice in areas that need improvement.
- Provides entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program via the PSAT/NMSQT (Junior year).
- Connects students to potential scholarships via the Digital PSAT/NMSQT (Junior year).
- Prepares juniors to take the All-School Digital SAT on April 16 of next year.

It is important to know that colleges and universities accept both the ACT and SAT for admissions purposes. Some students find that they prefer to take the ACT or the SAT or sit for both exams and see which score will serve them better for admissions and scholarship purposes. Wheaton Academy is now a test center for both the ACT and SAT examinations at various points throughout the year.

As you consider the October 23rd testing date, here are some important ways you can support your student:

- Explain to them the value of this test both for now and the future as you seek to navigate the college admission process.
- Encourage them to do their absolute best on the test.
- Encourage them to use the practice tests included in the PSAT/NMSQT student guides they received in their advisory and practice opportunities on Khan Academy and Bluebook.

On October 23, we will dismiss school after the testing is complete, around 11:00am for both the PSAT NMSQT and PSAT 8/9. Even though this is a half-day of school, it is a critical day, not only for Wheaton Academy to gain valuable data on how to continue to help our students' achievement, it is also a critical day for each individual student as this test will be extremely valuable in preparing him/her for the college admissions process. Thank you in advance for your support in having your student at school and ready for this important day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any members of our Student Services or Administrative team.

Thank you in advance for partnering with us on this very important day,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kori R Hockett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kori Hockett  
Principal, Wheaton Academy