

DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

PSAT, SAT, and ACT RECOMMENDATIONS

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT):

- national test offered only once in October of each year
- no make-up testing is allowed
- results reported each December

9th --- all students participate in test introduction, overview, and preparation practice through teacher-directed lesson

10th --- all students take the PSAT (free of charge) for practice and diagnostic purposes

11th --- all juniors planning to attend a 2 or 4 year school, college, or university sign-up in the **Career Center** (for a fee) to take the test: for scholarship competition and recognition, as a component of the college search process, and for test readiness for the SAT and/or ACT

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT):

We recommend students take this test no more than 3 times, and these times should be strategically chosen to maximize verbal skill development and math skill level.

10th grade --- students currently enrolled in **Algebra 2 or higher** should consult with their counselor about taking the SAT at the end of 10th grade

11th grade:

--- all students who have completed Algebra 2 or higher prior to the 11th grade should take this test two times this year --- in January and one more time in the spring

--- all students who complete Geometry in the 11th grade should take this test at least one time in the spring

--- any student not in the above categories should consult with his/her counselor regarding testing

12th grade:

--- if, prior to entering senior year the student has taken this test only once, he/she should take a second (and possibly third) test in the fall of senior year --- consult with counselor

SAT II SUBJECT TESTS:

The taking of subject tests is based on particular college entrance requirements. Students need to consult with individual colleges about what is expected.

American College Testing (ACT):

We recommend this test to be taken in the SPRING of JUNIOR year, one time only. Students should consult with their counselor concerning this test.

This test is particularly useful for those students who are stronger in verbal/reading than in math. It may be a better instrument than the SAT for demonstrating students' ability for college success. Discuss with your counselor the advantages of taking the ACT versus the SAT.

SAT Prep Course:

It is recommended that all students can benefit from a SAT Prep course. Damascus High School offers SAT Prep courses during the school day.

10th grade---students who are currently in Algebra 2 or higher can enroll in the SAT Prep course that is targeted towards improvement in verbal skills

11th grade---students can enroll in the SAT Prep course that is offered for both the fall and spring semesters

PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Junior year is the time to search, visit, and narrow college choices! More information regarding college testing is available on the Damascus High School web site at www.k12.md.us/schools/damascushs/guidance. Please consult the Getting Ready booklet (on the DHS website) for specific guidelines and checklists.