

# SAT/ACT

## INFORMATION PACKET

Catonsville High School Code for both the  
SAT & ACT:

# 210070

### WHAT'S IN THIS PACKET?

- A description of the SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject tests
- A conversion chart showing how ACT scores convert to SAT scores and vice versa
- A comparison of the SAT and the ACT tests
- A list of test dates and corresponding test centers
- A list of web sites with test prep questions
- A list of test day reminders

**STANDARDIZED TESTS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION**  
**CHS SCHOOL CODE: 210070 for SAT and ACT**

**SAT Reasoning Test**

609-771-7600

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

The SAT is a three hour and 45 minute, mostly multiple choice test that measures general verbal, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills. The three critical reading sections consist of 19 sentence completions and 48 critical reading questions. There are three writing skills sections one of which includes a 25 minute essay. The math sections consist of 35 multiple choice and 10 free response questions that test arithmetic, algebra I and II, and geometry skills. The registration fee is \$45.00. **Fee waivers are available for students whose family income is low or who receive free/reduced price lunches, so check with your counselor about your eligibility.** The test is given in October, November, December, January, March, May and June of each year.

**Approximately 1.2 million students nationwide took the SAT last year. These students live primarily on the east and west coasts.**

**AND/OR**

**ACT (formerly American College Testing Program)**

319-337-1270

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

This is a two hour and 55 minute multiple choice test, designed to assess a high school student's general education development in four areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The test is also used to assess a student's potential for college level work. The basic fee for the ACT, which includes reports to the student, high school, and up to four colleges is \$31.00. If the student adds the writing section which is required by some colleges, the fee is \$46.00. **Fee waivers are available for eligible students with low incomes or who are receiving free and reduced price lunches. See your guidance counselor for more information.** The ACT is given in September, October, December, February, April and June of each year. **Approximately 1.1 million students took the ACT last year. These students live primarily in the mid section of the U.S.**

**IN ADDITION, SOME STUDENTS MAY ALSO NEED TO TAKE ONE OR MORE  
OF THE TESTS DESCRIBED BELOW**

**SAT Subject Tests**

609-771-7600

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

These are one hour, mostly multiple choice tests that measure students' knowledge of specific academic subjects in six areas: Math, English, English Language Proficiency for ESL students, History and Social Studies, Foreign Languages, and Sciences. Some colleges, universities, and specialized programs require students to take one or more specific subject tests either for admission or scholarships. SAT Subject Tests are given in October, November, December, January, May and June. There is a \$20 basic fee to walk in the door plus an additional fee of \$9 for each test taken. The fee for the language test with listening is \$20. A student may take up to three tests during each test administration. **However, the SAT and SAT Subject Tests cannot be taken on the same day.**

<b>SAT I AND ACT: BASIC DIFFERENCES</b>
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SAT I	ACT
The SAT I measures academic aptitude in verbal and numerical reasoning, writing, and grammar skills. The essay is mandatory.	The ACT measures academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. There is a section that tests grammatical skills. The essay is optional.
The SAT seems to work slightly more like an IQ test than does the ACT . The subject matter is no more advanced, but the math is trickier and grammar concepts tend to be more difficult. Good test takers do better on the SAT.	Students who are not good test takers but who are hard workers tend to do better on the ACT
The SAT essay factors into your overall SAT score.	The optional ACT essay, if written, does not factor into the composite score.
Sentence completion and mathematics questions appear in order of difficulty.	ACT questions are not arranged in order of difficulty.
The SAT places strong emphasis on vocabulary.	The ACT does not place as much emphasis on vocabulary.
The SAT does not contain all multiple choice questions. While the SAT verbal sections are all multiple choice, one SAT math section contains free response questions for which students write the correct answer.	The ACT is all multiple choice.
The SAT has a wrong answer penalty of ¼ point.	The ACT has no penalty for wrong answers.
The SAT math questions test arithmetic, algebra I and II, and geometry skills. Trigonometry is <b>not</b> tested.	The ACT math questions test arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry skills.
All SAT verbal and math multiple choice questions have 5 answer choices. Free response math questions require a student produced answer.	All grammar, reading, and science reasoning multiple choice questions have 4 answer choices. Math multiple choice questions have 5 answer choices.
The SAT costs \$45 which includes the essay.	The ACT costs \$31 without the essay and \$46.00 with the essay.
All SAT scores show up on every SAT report.* <b>(This policy will change beginning in the spring of 2009.)</b> Colleges claim to look only at your highest score on a particular section.	You can send only the ACT scores you want so it is easier to hide bad ACT scores.
<b>You need to remember that you should take whichever test your prospective colleges require. But if colleges will accept either test, make a decision about where you should focus most of your preparation efforts. You can always take both tests as there is a lot of overlap between the two. An SAT score can be converted into an ACT score and vice versa. The conversion table is on the following page.</b>	

**SAT/ACT CONVERSION TABLE**

<b>SAT COMBINED SCORE</b>	<b>ACT COMBINED SCORE</b>
<b>2400</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>2340</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>2280</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>2220</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>2160</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>2100</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2040</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>1980</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>1920</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>1860</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>1800</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>1740</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>1680</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>1620</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>1560</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>1500</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>1440</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>1380</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>1320</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>1260</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>1200</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1140</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1080</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>1020</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>960</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>900</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>840</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>780</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>720</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>660</b>	<b>7</b>

**SAT TEST DATES:  
SATURDAY ADMINISTRATION  
CHS School code: 210070**

**SAT**

TEST DATE	TEST	REGULAR DEADLINE	LATE DEADLINE	CLOSEST TEST CENTERS
October 4, 2008	SAT & SAT Subject Tests	September 9	September 16	<b>21-235 CHS**</b> 21-280 Centennial 21-158 Woodlawn
November 1, 2008	SAT & SAT Subject Tests*	September 26	October 10	<b>21-235 CHS**</b> 21-135 St. Joe's 21-158 Woodlawn
December 6, 2008	SAT & SAT Subject Tests	November 5	November 18	21-113 Western 21-158 Woodlawn
January 24, 2009	SAT & SAT Subject tests	December 26	January 6	21-395 Randallstown 21-158 Woodlawn
March 14, 2009	<b>SAT only</b>	February 10	February 24	21-158 Woodlawn 21-280 Centennial
May 2, 2009	SAT & SAT Subject Tests	March 31	April 9	<b>21-235 CHS**</b> 21-158 Woodlawn
June 6, 2009	SAT & SAT Subject Tests	May 5	May 15	21-235 <b>CHS**</b> 21-113 Western 21-158 Woodlawn

\*Foreign Language Reading and Listening Tests offered only on November 1, 2008. You may take only one foreign language test with listening.

\*\* Catonsville High School

**ACT TEST DATES:  
SATURDAY ADMINISTRATION  
CHS School code: 210070**

**ACT**

<b>TEST DATE</b>	<b>REGULAR DEADLINE</b>	<b>LATE DEADLINE</b>	<b>CLOSEST TEST CENTER</b>
September 13, 2008	August 12	August 22	<b>Boys' Latin 219850 Dulaney High School 190290</b>
October 25, 2008	September 19	October 3	<b>Pikesville High School 210970 Woodlawn High School 214290 Boys' Latin 219850 Dulaney High School 190290</b>
December 13, 2008	November 7	November 20	<b>Boys' Latin 219850 Woodlawn High School 214290 Dulaney High School 190290</b>
February 7, 2009	January 6	January 16	<b>Boys' Latin 219850 Dulaney High School 190290 Woodlawn High School 214290</b>
April 4, 2009	February 27	March 13	<b>Boys' Latin 219850 Dulaney High School 190290 Woodlawn High School 214290</b>
June 13, 2009	May 8	May 22	<b>Dulaney High School 190290</b>

## SAT PREP ON THE WEB

The College Board [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

The Princeton Review [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)

[4Tests.com](http://4Tests.com)

### **Introducing the New SAT Score-Reporting Policy**

Designed to relieve student stress and improve the test-day experience, this new SAT score-reporting feature provides students the opportunity to select which scores they send to colleges by test date for the SAT and by individual test for SAT Subject Tests(TM). Students can send any or all scores to a college on a single report. It will not cost more to send one, multiple or all test scores, and students can easily sign up through the Web.

**The new score-reporting feature will launch in Spring 2009 for all students. Starting with the class of 2010, this feature will help lessen the anxiety associated with testing, and allow students to put their best foot forward on test day.**

Ms. Leonard, the Guidance Office Secretary, can provide you with registration forms and additional material.

See your guidance counselor or Ms. Hastings for help completing the registration form or for further information.

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# SAT: Test Day Reminders

## The Day Before

1) **Gather up everything you're going to need for the next morning.** You don't want to be stuck frantically searching for your admission ticket just before you rush out the door. You'll need the following items:

- **Acceptable Photo ID**
  - **Your SAT Admission Ticket**
  - **Two sharpened No. 2 pencils**
  - **A calculator with fresh batteries**
  - **Tissues**
  - **A watch**
- 2) Write down the directions to the test center. Make sure you know how to get to your test center and how long it'll take you to get there.
- 3) **Check to see if your test center is open.** Especially if there is bad weather in your area, tune into your local media (like you do for school closing announcements) or visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) on the Friday before the test to make sure your test center is open.
- 4) **Be well-rested and ready to go.** Get a good night's sleep the night before the test.
- 5) Set two alarms—one in your room and one in someone else's room, in case you hit the snooze button one time too many.

## The Morning of the Test

- 1) **Eat breakfast.** You'll be at the test center for four hours and you're likely going to get hungry.
- 2) **Bring snacks.** During one of the breaks, you can eat or drink any snacks you have brought with you. A healthy snack will go a long way toward keeping you alert during the entire test.
- 3) **Have your SAT Admission Ticket and acceptable Photo ID ready.** You will need your admission ticket and photo ID for admission to the test center.
- 4) **Bring two No. 2 pencils and a soft eraser** — a pencil is required for the multiple choice questions and the essay. Mechanical pencils are not allowed. Pens are not allowed.

- 5) **Arrive at your test center no later than 7:45 a.m.** Don't risk getting locked out because you're 30 seconds late. Give yourself plenty of time to get to get there. Consider traffic, weather conditions, flat tires, and anything else that could slow you down.
- 6) **Dress in layers** so that you won't be too hot or too cold.
- 7) **Bring a watch** so that you can keep track of time in case there is no clock in the room!!

### **During the Test**

- 1) **Use breaks to eat or drink any snacks you have brought with you.** You will have several breaks during the test. Use them to relax and eat a snack so you can stay focused. **You may not eat or drink, even water, during the test.**
- 2) **Work only on the section you are supposed to be working on.** You're not allowed to go back to a section once that section has ended. You also can't start the next section if you finish a section early.
- 3) **Do easier questions first.** You earn just as many points for easy questions as you do for hard ones.
- 4) **Make sure you use a No. 2 pencil on the answer sheet.** It is very important that you fill in the entire circle darkly and completely. If you change your response, erase it as completely as possible. It is very important that you follow these instructions when filling out your answer sheet.
- 5) **Use all of your time.** Students around you may close up their test books and rest their heads on their desks, but you know better. Go back to review problems you weren't quite sure about the first time. Or, if you skipped any hard problems use the time to try to work them out. **Check to make sure that the proctor records the correct time and that you are given the right amount of time for each section.**
- 6) Stay positive and focused. Keep your mind on your work, not your score.
- 7) Try not to worry about whether you "nailed it" or "blew it." It'll be a long couple of weeks if you do. Know you did your best—and celebrate. You deserve it.

Good Luck!