

*The*  
**POST OAK  
SCHOOL**

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## Standardized Testing

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### **PSAT**

The PSAT is for grades 9, 10, and 11. Seniors need not participate. The PSAT takes place on the Post Oak campus during the school day (see school calendar for date). Juniors who take the PSAT will also be automatically evaluated for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or “NMSQT.” National Merit honors can open the door to summer programs, as well as great scholarship opportunities from universities that recognize this achievement. Students are automatically registered for the PSAT, therefore there is no need for parents to do anything extra. The PSAT is required of all students in grades 9, 10, and 11. Because we do not require State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) testing of our students, the PSAT is a great way for them to feel more prepared for the expectations of them leading up to college.

### **SAT & ACT**

The SAT and ACT are not offered on the Post Oak campus, but are offered on national testing dates around the greater Houston area. Students at Post Oak should register to take both the SAT and ACT in the fall or early spring of their junior year (11th grade). In this way, students establish a baseline and learn if they are “SAT testers” or “ACT testers.” Whichever test they perform best on is the test they will study for over the year, then sit for again in the late spring of their junior year.

### **SAT SUBJECT TESTS**

Subject tests are area specific exams that are required by specific schools, so students should register for these on a case by case basis. Please speak with our college counseling office should your family need help determining if you are considering an institution that requires SAT subject tests.

### **SAT & ACT ACCOMMODATIONS**

SAT (SSD) and ACT (TAA) testing accommodations are handled through the college counseling office. Please reach out to us if you have questions about this (louisdorsey@postoakschool.org). All accommodation information is maintained strictly confidential. Typically, once

accommodations are granted, they remain in place for following exams, up to a maximum of one year after the graduation date of the high school examinee. Accommodations for senior (12th grade) IB exams are handled separately by Dr. James Quillin (jamesquillin@postoakschool.org).

### **TEST-OPTIONAL SCHOOLS**

Standardized testing is not the end-all-be-all, but it is a strong indicator of success in college for many institutions, so your student will certainly be benefitted by taking the exams. That being said, there are increasingly more test-optional schools every year, and in the United States alone, 900 bachelor-degree granting institutions are already test-optional. This means these schools consider a variety of other criteria in order to assess your admissibility, rather than relying on testing. These schools range from public to private, small to large, and liberal arts to research. If you or your student are interested in learning more about these schools, please mention it in our counseling meeting!

### **REGISTER FOR TESTING**

There are links for the SAT and ACT on our counseling web page. We recommend using a non-Post Oak email to register, as the school email often has filters that can hinder the arrival of important information!

When registering, make sure to include the essay and writing sections of the SAT and ACT respectively. These are important because certain schools will require these assessments—it’s easier to complete them, rather than re-testing simply because a school you’re applying to requires them.

### **TEST PREPARATION**

There are many ways of going about test prep. In the fall, students taking the PSAT receive practice tests and resource materials in person from school. If your family is interested in finding one-on-one or classroom-style study help for the SAT or ACT, please let the college counseling office know and we can send you a Post Oak-approved resource list!