The Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) is the admission test required of all applicants to Burroughs and many other independent schools in St. Louis. Realizing that young students may not have had experience taking such a lengthy test in an unfamiliar location, Burroughs has long offered a “practice” test for fifth graders (rising sixth graders). The practice test is a real version of the SSAT. Parents/guardians will receive an official SSAT score report directly from SSAT.

The SSAT that your student will take during their sixth-grade year is required, but only one factor considered in our admission process. Other factors such as your child's performance in school and their personality and character are equally important. Every child has a personality that is unique, a life that is just theirs, and that is what we want to get to know about in our admission process.

The test consists of verbal, quantitative (math), and reading comprehension sections. Verbal questions test vocabulary, verbal reasoning, and ability to relate ideas logically. Quantitative (math) questions test a student’s ability to solve problems involving arithmetic, elementary algebra and geometry, and concepts. The reading comprehension section tests a student’s ability to understand what they read. The test also includes a writing sample portion, which asks a student to respond to a topic statement.

Parents/guardians find the practice test helpful because it provides information about strengths and weaknesses before the admission process. The sole purpose of this test is to give parents/guardians an indication—this is a practice test. If your child has already taken the SSAT this year, they do not need to take this practice test. We do not suggest studying prior to this test.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 am Saturday, April 29. Please use the Clayton Road parking lot. The practice test will begin at 9 am and conclude between 12:30 and 12:45 pm. A break with a snack will be included. Burroughs will provide everything, including pencils, that your student needs to take the test. The cost of the exam is $165 (SSAT has an at-home option for $255). Expect results sometime during the week of May 22.

Parents/guardians are invited to stay on campus to learn more about the test and the entire sixth-grade admission process. Please contact the Admission Office at 314/993.4040 ext. 242 or nvogt@jburroughs.org for more information.