

# PSAT 8/9

**TEST DAY: October 14**

Families of Digital Learning students are encouraged to register their student for an upcoming assessment, which will be administered at the school. Please review this information about the assessment and how we use results, the registration process, and frequently asked questions.

## About the PSAT 8/9

The PSAT 8/9 (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test 8/9) is a test given in **8th grade** that helps determine what students need to work on most so that they are ready for college when they graduate from high school. It's part of the College Board family of assessments that includes the SAT college-admission assessment and the PSAT/NMSQT, a preview of the SAT. The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT, but in a way that makes sense for 8th graders. It also gives students a chance to preview the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT.

The test focuses on skills and knowledge in the areas of Reading, Writing and Language, and Mathematics— what students have been learning in school and what they'll need to succeed in college.

Each section takes approximately 35 minutes, for a total of about two hours on testing day.

**While this assessment is not mandatory for Digital Learning students, the results help establish a baseline for college and career readiness as students enter high school.**



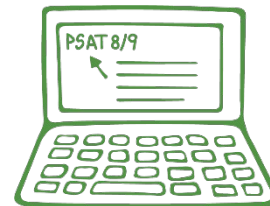
## How to register for the test

Please let us know that your student will participate in PSAT 8/9 testing on Wednesday, **October 14**, by completing your school's registration form.

Please refer to your school's registration form for the deadline to submit your student's registration.

## Why register?

Registration is required so that your child's school can prepare a safe and successful assessment for all students— those learning in person and those participating in Digital Learning. Only students who have pre-registered will be able to take the assessment.



## Transportation available

Digital Learning students who have registered for the assessment may choose to ride the bus to and from school on test days. Please contact your local school if you are unsure which bus your student will take.



*See the other side for frequently asked questions about in-school assessments this fall.*

*This flyer reflects plans as of August 20, 2020. Any changes will be communicated to families.*

# Frequently Asked Questions— In-school Assessments

## What safety procedures will schools follow on test day?

Keeping students and staff safe and healthy is our key concern. Here are a few of the protective measures in place in our schools to minimize the spread of illness:

- Wearing a cloth face covering or a mask is required for students and staff in GCPS facilities and on buses. (Accommodations will be made for students unable to wear a mask for documented health reasons.)
- Schools will arrange seating to maximize space between students.
- Rooms, furniture, and high-touch surfaces and objects will be disinfected frequently.
- Ventilation systems will be monitored for proper operation and appropriate circulation of outdoor air.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after morning and afternoon routes.

## What should my student bring on test day?

- **A mask or cloth face covering.** Masks should cover both the nose and mouth and secure under the chin. They also should fit securely against both sides of the face. Face shields may be worn in addition to masks, but not in place of masks.
- **Pencils.** Students may not share materials or supplies. Each student should bring several sharpened pencils.
- **A water bottle.** Students will have access to water during the day, but should bring their own container.
- **Hand sanitizer.** Frequent hand-washing is encouraged. We also recommend bringing hand sanitizer from home as well.
- **Device for digital learning.** Students who are being transported to and from school by bus may bring their personal or school-issued device to continue digital instruction as these students will remain at school until dismissal.

## Are students screened for symptoms?

You should screen your student for symptoms at home, before coming to school or leaving for the bus stop. This includes:

- Taking temperature before going to school.
- Checking for respiratory symptoms such as coughing and shortness of breath.

### Students ***must*** stay home if:

- They are sick (fever, congestion or runny nose, muscle pain and fatigue, cough, new loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, chills, or diarrhea).
- They have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- They are awaiting test results.
- They have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

## My student will be taking the bus. Does she have to stay at school until the end of the day?

Digital Learning students being transported to and from school by bus for the assessment will remain at school until the regularly scheduled dismissal time.

Once testing is done for the day, students will continue instruction. They should bring their personal or school-issued device if possible.

## If my student participates, can I provide transportation? Can my student drive himself?

Yes, families may transport their student to and from school for testing. Student drivers must submit a signed permission form available from the school. Ask your school about the schedule for test days. Note that both In-Person students and Digital Learning students will return to instruction after testing is done for the day. Due to travel time, your student may miss some instruction in the digital classroom. Your student's teacher can answer questions about the instructional schedule.

## Will Digital Learning students who do not participate have school on test day?

Yes, teachers will continue instruction for students in the Digital Learning format.