

Taking the ACT or SAT – Minnetonka ACADEMIC Talent Search FAQ

1. Why should a student take this exam at such early age?

- Many students have reached the ceiling on the standardized test they take each year (NWEA). Taking the or SAT may give you and your child a more comprehensive picture of their achievement level.
- If a student takes the exam in Gr. 7 and the same exam in Gr. 8 they will see growth which is a positive experience.

2. What are the benefits?

- Exposure to the college entrance exam they will take in the future.
- Establish a baseline.
- Practice for when they have to take it for real - the more times a student's take this test the better at it they become.
- Practice for the ACT given in 11th grade as a state requirement.
- Practice for the PSAT given in 11th grade, which determines National Merit Scholarships.
- Familiarization with test items and formats.
- More accurately measure achievement strength and weak areas.
- Recognition for those who perform at a high level by awarding them the Minnetonka Scholar Award.

3. What are the disadvantages?

- Anxiety - test anxiety can be managed by positive self-talk and an attitude that this experience will be difficult. The rationale in taking on the challenge is to learn and gain experience. To practice anything, one has to begin for the first time. Each time after the initial time, anxiety most probably will be lessened.
- Over testing – while some students would like to take both tests, for most students one is best. Students can be over tested and can develop a casual attitude towards high stakes tests.

4. What if my child is unavailable when the test is scheduled at the Minnetonka site?

There are alternate dates and sites available.

To determine other **dates** available:

SAT - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

To determine **locations** available:

SAT - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/find-test-centers>

5. Is there financial aid available?

Yes, students may receive a financial aid if they qualify and are receiving free and reduced lunch.
See information titled Financial Aid

6. My child has an IEP or 504. Can they apply for special accommodations?

Yes, please follow this process:

1. Inform Deborah Zachman via email you are requesting special accommodations. This enables us to start the school process.
2. Complete a registration on-line by following the instructions on green Registration Instruction sheet.
3. Complete Step # 3 **Special Requests**: check **documented disability**.
4. Complete NUMATS registration.
5. NUMATS will send confirmation to you (with 24 hours).
6. NUMATS will send you via U.S. mail the Student Eligibility Form to fill out.
7. This link may be helpful: <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>
8. Fill out the following form and send it along with your paperwork:

[Consent Form for Accommodations](#)

9. When packet is received in the US Mail, complete the parent section
10. Bring form to Deborah Zachman (MME). We will work with your child's case manager, counselor and teachers to fill out the school portion. DO NOT DELAY.
11. Do not fill out the requested accommodations portion but you can inform the school as to what accommodations you are requesting.
12. Deborah Zachman will make copies and send original with all documentation to College Board.
13. College Board reviews 'application' and approves or declines and communicates to family.
14. IF APPROVED: College Board will assign student with SSD # (Services for Students with Disabilities).
15. When you have received confirmation of the approval or denial of Request for Special Accommodations, please notify your child's school official.

The approved accommodation and SSD number will stay with the student throughout their high school career and apply towards all College Board exams (SAT, PSAT and AP exams). There will be no need to reapply.

7. How do I register if my child has ALREADY been approved for special Accommodations for the SAT last year?

SAT:

- When registering your child, check the box in STEP #3 documented disability.
- When packet is received, make a copy of the eligibility letter, which indicates the student's SSD #.
- Send the Eligibility letter and child's registration # in the Addressed envelope provided in the packet.

8. How do I change my child's registration after registration is closed?

SAT: The link gives instruction on how to do this <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/registration-changes>

Incorrect information: (name, address, DOB, sex) can be changed without fee.

VERY IMPORTANT to do this. We cannot admit a student with erroneous information.

Test Date and Test Site: There is a fee of \$29

Call 866-756-7346 You will need the registration number.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/policies-requirements/changes>

9. What if my child is absent the day of the test?

SAT: see #4

10. What does my child need the day of test?

- Admission Ticket
- Student ID Form – found in your NUMATS Tool Box or Click here:
- #2 Pencils with erasers – no mechanical 2-3 pencils
- Calculator – the one used for school is appropriate Adhere to Calculator Policy [SAT Calculator Policy](#)
- Water
- Snack

11. Whom should I contact if I do not receive my admission ticket before the exam?

SAT Customer Service Call 866-756-7346 #4 your registration number will be helpful

12. Should my child study for these exams?

Studying is not necessary or recommended. However, we recognize that some students enjoy this kind of intellectual endeavor. There are a number of websites that will help:

- <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/>
- My CTD Tool Box: #2
- Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- Princeton Review <https://www.princetonreview.com/> test prep tab – choose test

13. What happens to my child's scores?

- The scores will serve as information for you and your child to learn about their achievement level.
- The school uses them determine if a student would qualify for the Minnetonka Scholar award.
- The scores are NOT used for placement purposes.
- All scores before gr. 9 are eliminated from a student's record.

14. What calculators are acceptable?

The calculator your child uses for school is acceptable.

- SAT <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/calculator-policy>

15. What are some general test taking tips?

- Carefully read the instructions for each test.
- Read each question carefully.
- Pace yourself – don't spend too much time on any one single passage or question.
- Answer easy questions first, then go back and answer the more difficult ones.
- On difficult questions, eliminate as many incorrect answers as you can and then make an educated guess.
- Pay attention to the announcement of five more minutes remaining.
- Completely fill in the oval. If you change your mind about an answer completely erase without smudging before selecting another answer.
- If you complete a test before time is called, recheck your work on that test. DO NOT go back to a previous test or you will be disqualified from the exam.