



Great Vision Great Coverage

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## Franklin Administers March SAT to Juniors

By Logan Dubel



*While many schools are transitioning to test-optional policies, the SAT remains an important college readiness indicator. Image courtesy of the College Board.*

**F**ranklin's juniors put their knowledge to the test on Wednesday, March 24, as they tackled one of the most important and longtime indicators for college admissions, the SAT. After a year of uncertainty in the world of standardized testing, SAT Day at Franklin marks a return to normalcy.

At the end of March, 174 juniors arrived at Franklin, masked and ready to demonstrate their skills. To create the most conducive and safe testing environment, coordinators divided students into 16 different rooms across the school. Each testing room had no more than 12 students to allow for social distancing, per CDC guidelines.

Just a few months ago, with stringent restrictions in place from BCPS, the fate of the SAT remained unclear. However, following a successful PSAT administration at the end of January, BCPS continued to roll out reopening plans, paving the way for a more extensive SAT Day.

Ahead of the test, junior Noveen Awan hoped for positive results and looked forward to moving on. "I'm looking forward to finally taking the test and getting it done so I can focus on the upcoming AP tests," Awan said. "After the PSAT, I put in effort in preparing for the SAT, and I'm excited to see the positive effect of that."

Junior Lea Glaser is excited to return to the school environment for the test. "I am looking forward to seeing people that I haven't seen in a year, and finally take the test after months of preparation."

Mrs. Hornberger, one of Franklin's SAT coordinators, is thankful to have offered the testing opportunity to students. "We

wanted our students to do their very best and created what we believe are the best testing experiences. At first, I was surprised that the SAT was being offered; however, I know that educators across the country want to reopen schools and to make learning and school experiences return in a safe and semi-normal manner," explained Mrs. Hornberger. "I am friends with teachers across the country who have been in school since August and have done things in a safe yet smart manner. Knowing that others have been successful made me feel better about getting back to 'normal,' testing included."

For many students, this was their first opportunity to take the official SAT. In December, BCPS opened ten select high schools for the SAT, though the list did not include Franklin. In addition, Franklin usually serves as a testing center for nearly all Saturday SAT testing dates, though the school has not provided that opportunity for the past year.



*Franklin divided students across 16 rooms to maintain social distancing. Image courtesy of the College Board.*

While this may be students' first attempt, it should not be their last. Mrs. Hornberger recommends students study and review SAT concepts based on their scores and take the test again. However, she strongly advises against testing too many times. "I think taking it once is super important; however, if you think you can do better and you take the time to really look at your score report and work those muscles that might need a bit more improvement in certain skill areas, you should take it a second time," she said. "There are studies that

say that students who take the exam more than three times often lower their scores the more times they take it. Twice is nice and not too overwhelming."

The extensive test consists of four sections totaling three hours, excluding breaks and instruction time. Although it all may sound overwhelming, the SAT now excludes the essay section, to the delight of many students. The essay has become less regarded by colleges, even to the point where the College Board plans to discontinue the section entirely after June.

Although the pandemic has certainly changed attitudes about the importance of standardized testing, it seems as though the SAT will stick around for many years to come. However, the pandemic has shown admissions offices nationwide that applicants are much more than numbers. Students bring unique qualities, academic success, community activities, and more to their future campuses.

Mrs. Hornberger recognizes both sides of the testing complex. "Some students don't test well--I was one of those students when I was in school. But the SAT does give colleges a standard to which all students can be measured when determining college readiness," she reflected. "It's a snapshot of what colleges think you should know on ONE day--it doesn't show everything you know--but it's still useful."

The release of March 24 SAT scores is scheduled for April 18. Will you be the next BCPS student to earn a perfect score? Make sure to check your scores and study!

**1600**  
Total Score

**800**  
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

**800**  
Math

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There are a lot of great possibilities to explore in choosing a college. Get a step-by-step roadmap and advice on what to do when. [Make a plan](#)

*The SAT is scored out of 1600 points total. Image courtesy of the College Board.*