



Argo Community High School District 217

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Argo Parents and Guardians,

In the fall, Argo administered the College Board's standardized tests for the first time. Students in grades 9 through 11 took different versions of the PSAT (*Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test*) with the goal of being better prepared for the spring versions of those same exams, including the SAT for all juniors. The SAT is the Illinois State test that replaces both the ACT and PARCC for this year. Not only can all juniors use the SAT for college admission, but the test is free to all high school juniors. **It is important to note that like the ACT, the SAT is accepted as a college entrance exam across the nation.**

These spring assessments are very similar to the tests all students took in the fall. That is, they measure a student's aptitude for the same sets of college and career readiness skills. One of the ways that Argo uses student scores is by measuring student growth in specific areas between the fall and spring tests. We use the results to make data driven instructional decisions.

Test Date – Wednesday, April 5th - 8:00am – 1:00pm

Freshman Test – [PSAT 9 \(spring version\)](#)

Sophomore Test – [PSAT 10](#)

Junior Test – [SAT \(State Assessment\)](#)

Seniors – Attendance not Required – Seniors have the option of taking the [ASVAB Military Aptitude Test](#) or the State Seal of Biliteracy test. Contact your counselor for details.

On Wednesday, April 5th, Argo High School will be instituting an alternate schedule so that we can administer the PSAT 9 and 10 as well as the SAT to students at Argo.

PLEASE NOTE: Even though this is a Wednesday, it is NOT a Late Start day.

Details for the spring testing day:

- A free breakfast will be served in the Argo Cafeteria from 7:15 – 7:50. We want to make sure that all students are nourished and ready for these exams.
- Testing begins at 8:00 am. Students will finish testing at 1:00. They are released from school at this time.
- Students will receive an email indicating their testing room and we will also post testing rooms in common areas around the building.
- Athletic practices may begin as early as 1:15, but ultimately the coach will communicate practice times to athletes.
- Students should bring their Argo ID, a calculator, and a few #2 pencils. Snacks will be provided between sections of the test. Lunch will not be served at Argo on this testing day.
- Bus service will run normally in the morning, and will depart from Argo following the test at 1:00. There will be a late bus at 3:00 and 4:30. Any student using an extended time accommodation can ride one of these busses.

Our teachers have been preparing for this shift to the SAT since the beginning of the year. All classes have incorporated College and Career Readiness skills into their curriculum and many are reviewing specific sample SAT questions and writing prompts. In short, no student will be surprised by the format or expectations of these exams. Additionally, in January all Argo students set up their own College Board account (in their math class) which gives them unlimited (free) access to practice questions and tests. If you would like more information about how to help your child prepare for the PSAT or the SAT, please contact his or her counselor.

We wish all students the best of luck on April 5th, and **Go Argonauts!**

Dr. Chris Covino, Principal

We inspire, educate, and empower students to envision a positive future for themselves and their community.