



**YOUR SAT JOURNEY
BEGINS HERE**

..... with the PSAT

What is the PSAT?

The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) is a standardized test administered once a year, in October, to grade 10 and 11 students who are considering a college or university education in the United States. Designed by College Board, an American private nonprofit organization, the PSAT measures an individual's ability to do post-secondary schoolwork by evaluating his or her skills in evidence-based reading, writing and language, and mathematical problem solving. More importantly, it provides the student with firsthand practice for the SAT, the admissions test that remains a standard-bearer of the U.S. college application process. Upon writing the PSAT, TCS students will receive a comprehensive diagnostic report outlining their performance on each section of the test. This feedback will point out their test-taking patterns and identify areas of strength and weakness, information which can be used to establish a study plan in preparation for the SAT. Because PSAT scores are NOT reported to *any* American colleges, writing the test is considered a smart, if not essential, risk-free first step in applying to post-secondary schools in the U.S.

Test details

The PSAT allows students to practise writing a standardized test under strict time constraints in an environment similar to that of the SAT. This year's test is being written at **Trinity College School** the morning of **Wednesday, October 24**. Results will be available online as of Wednesday, December 12, with hard copies of the student reports expected to be mailed to TCS the next month.

PSAT prep course

Trinity College School has made arrangements for **The Learning Curve Tutoring and Educational Services (TLC)** to provide a series of PSAT training sessions to interested grade 10 and 11 students. The course will take place at TCS over five consecutive Tuesdays, starting September 25, and will be offered at two different levels:

LEVEL 1: Classroom Instruction (3 Tuesday evenings)

This course will involve six hours of interactive classroom instruction in September/October and a personal performance analysis session in January to review each student's results. The first of these two-hour classes will focus on the English sections of the PSAT (the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Test), while the second will prepare students for the two math sections, and the third will address pacing drills and test-taking strategies for all question types. The syllabus is designed to demystify the test by introducing participants to its language and format, thereby reducing the element of surprise and helping them develop individual game plans for each section. Simply put, the purpose of the course is to teach students how to use their existing knowledge of mathematical and English concepts to answer standardized test questions, most of which are in multiple-choice format. Among other skills, TLC will help students improve their deductive reasoning, shore up their grammar and sentence structure, embrace "reasonableness" as a means of dismissing math answers that don't make sense, maximize efficient use of time when reading sight passages, and explore context as a way of intuiting the meanings of more difficult words.

LEVEL 2: Classroom Instruction (3 Tuesday evenings) + Practice Test, Evaluation and Review (2 additional Tuesday evenings)

At this level, a full-length practice test will be administered on Tuesday, October 16 followed a week later by a feedback session during which the results will be tabulated and the scoring system fully explained. Each participant will receive a complete set of scores and an in-depth evaluation of his or her performance, including results related to level of difficulty and educated guessing. Students will also get the chance to ask targeted questions about the PSAT and standardized testing, generally. This level includes the January performance analysis session, the aim of which is to analyze the actual test results and plot a course of action for SAT prep.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT REGISTRATION

Registration for the test and the prep course are done separately:

- To sign up for the October 24 test, contact the guidance department at Trinity College School.
- To sign up for the course, please refer to page 2 of this document.

Just because a student has been registered for one of the above doesn't mean he or she is automatically signed up for the other!

2018 PSAT Prep Course Registration Form

Course Dates:

Tuesday, September 25	6:15pm - 8:15pm	Reading Test, Writing and Language Test
Tuesday, October 2	6:15pm - 8:15pm	Math Test (no-calculator and calculator-allowed sections)
Tuesday, October 9	6:15pm - 8:15pm	Pacing Drills and Test-taking Strategies
Tuesday, October 16	6pm - 9pm	Full-length Practice Test (level 2 course only)
Tuesday, October 23	6:15pm - 8:15pm	Evaluation and Review (level 2 course only)
Tuesday, January 22, 2018	by appointment	PSAT Performance Analysis and SAT Planning

Scheduling Conflicts:

Every year, there are several TCS students who wish to take The Learning Curve's prep course but who are unable to do so because of conflicts with extra-curricular activities - leadership camp, competitive sports, volunteer obligations, etc. If your son or daughter cannot attend one or more of the above classes for such a reason, please note the date(s) on the registration slip, where indicated, and every effort will be made to book a make-up time. If most, or all, of the course dates are in conflict with other pursuits, please contact The Learning Curve directly to make alternate arrangements - anything is possible!!!

Course Information:

- 1) **LEVEL 1: Classroom Instruction (\$275)** - 3 evening classes, 1 post-test private session
LEVEL 2: Classroom Instruction + Practice Test, Evaluation, Review (\$395) - 5 evening classes, 1 post-test private session
- 2) Payments are **non-refundable** and **non-transferable**.
- 3) All sessions will take place at Trinity College School (specific classroom to be confirmed after Labour Day).
- 4) The course is only open to grade 10 and 11 students enrolled at TCS for the 2018/19 academic year.
- 5) The PSAT is a pencil-and-paper test, so **absolutely no laptops** will be permitted in the classroom. Graphing calculators, however, will be allowed for the math sessions and practice test. Students will be provided with study guides and related materials.
- 6) For more information, please contact The Learning Curve directly by either of the following means:
Colin McMahon, Director: 416.422.5988 OR colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca

Registration Options:

- 1) online - visit www.learningcurvetutoring.ca and select "PSAT Prep Course Registration Form" from the "Registration Forms" drop-down menu.
- 2) by e-mail - scan/photo and send this slip to: colin@learningcurvetutoring.ca
- 3) by Canada Post - mail the bottom portion of this form to: **The Learning Curve**
35 Wyndfield Crescent
Whitby ON L1N 8L3

NOTE: Once registration has been processed, a confirmation e-mail will be sent along with payment instructions. However, if registering by Canada Post, please feel free to include a cheque payable to "The Learning Curve."

The registration deadline is Friday, September 21, 2018. Please DO NOT return this slip to TCS.

Student Information:

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____
Grade: _____ Boarder: Yes/No Tel.#s: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Parent Information:

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____
Mailing address: _____
Tel.#s: (work) _____ (cell) _____ (other) _____

Course Selection:

- LEVEL 1: Classroom Instruction (\$275) - 3 Tuesday evening classes, 1 post-test private session
- LEVEL 2: Classroom Instruction + Practice Test, Evaluation and Review (\$395) - 5 Tuesday evening classes, 1 post-test private session

Scheduling Conflicts:

Please note any course dates the student will not be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts:

Please check this box if you would like to be contacted for private tutoring in any academic subjects for the 2018/19 school year.