

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:00 PM

Remote Session

I. Call to order

II. Approval of March 2023 meeting minutes

III. Curriculum & Instruction Discussion:

- Literacy
 - School-based conversations with PTOs in May
- Math
 - Tri-State consultancy visit
 - Reflections from the field
- Assessment
 - State assessment window update
- District professional development
 - March 20th feedback
- Presentation:
 - SAT/ACT overview, purpose, changes, preparation and utilization of data

IV. Next meeting topics

- District attendance process, protocols and data

V. Adjournment

Curriculum Committee Meeting

March 14, 3:00 p.m.

Via Google Meet

Present Committee Members:

Bernadette Kingsley (Chairperson), Chad Hoepfner, David Felton

Present Administration:

Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Meghan Ward, WHS Principal; Dan Doak, WMS Principal

1. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel reviewed the general purpose of the Curriculum Committee meetings and reviewed the virtual meeting norms.

2. Approval of February 2023 minutes

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the February 2023 meeting minutes. This motion made by David Felton and seconded by Chad Hoepfner.

3 Yeas – 0 Nays

3. Portrait of the Graduate:

Discussion:

- Principal Megan Ward gave an overview of the Portrait of the Graduate scheduling of presentations. She reported that there would be 179 portfolios for presentation.
- Dr. Henckel commended the WHS administrative staff for an outstanding job in coordinating the presentation schedule so that district administrators and members of the public (i.e. PTO and ADAP committee members) could attend and be part of the review process.
- Committee members discussed the possibility of having one or two students present to the Curriculum Committee next year.

4. Curriculum and Instruction Updates

Discussion:

- Literacy
 - Dr. Henckel reported that, as the district moves toward implementing the new core literacy program, there would be school-based presentations through the PTO. The presentations will provide more information on the science of reading and discuss the process the District Literacy Committee used to vet the state-recommended resources. The first PTO presentation will be on K-5 literacy and will take place in May 2023.

- Special Education
 - A special education parent meeting will take place on March 21 at 4:00 p.m. in Weston Middle School Library.
- Assessment
 - The State assessments that are upcoming are the School Day SAT exam, the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA), and the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS). The final NWEA assessments come next as well as the grade 8 and grade 10 writing portfolios. Parent communications will be forthcoming from the building principals.
 - Ms. Kingsley inquired about how the district supports the increased anxiety and stress level in students during assessments.
 - Dr. Henckel reported that the principals are very thoughtful in the scheduling these assessments and are strategic in providing a balance in daily activities.
 - Mr. Doak gave examples of how they support the students in social-emotional wellness, particularly during the assessment windows.
- Math
 - Dr. Henckel reported on the upcoming visit from the Tri-State Consortium. She gave a brief overview of the purpose of the consortium visit and the way in which the review is conducted.
 - She gave a presentation on the structure of the three-day visit and the essential questions the reviewers will use in examining the grades 5-12 math program.
 - Mr. Doak had recently been part of a Tri-State visiting team in a neighboring town. He stated that the visitation is among the best professional development they can receive as educators. Visitors are asking the hard questions as critical friends.
 - The expectation as a member of the consortium is that there is a district visit every four years and a follow up two years later.
 - Committee members asked follow up questions on the day three activities and essential questions.
 - The work and the feedback the district will get from our critical friends will inform the K-12 math program even though they are only gathering evidence for grades 5-12.

5. Next Meeting Topics

- Information on future SAT and ACT testing.
- Reflection and feedback on upcoming March 20 professional development.
- A look at our district attendance.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

Standardized Testing



PSAT

The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test that 11th graders and 10th graders take in October. Like the SAT, it measures the knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and math students learn in the classroom.



The average PSAT/NMSQT score is about 920. A score between 1210 and 1520 puts a student in the top 10% of test takers.

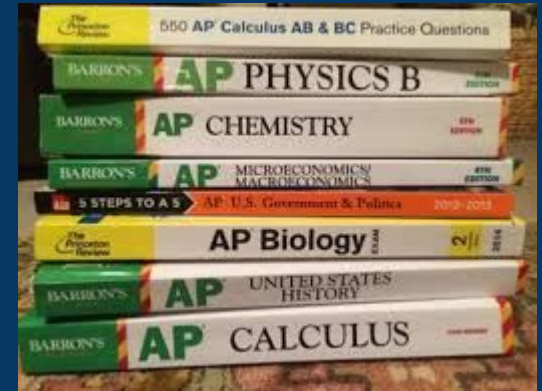
The PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT are very similar tests, so a student's score on the PSAT/NMSQT can give them an idea of how they'll do when they take the SAT.

A student's PSAT/NMSQT score report gives them valuable information about their strengths and weaknesses that they can use to prepare for the SAT and increase their score. College Board and Khan Academy® accounts can be linked to get a personalized SAT study plan and practice questions for free.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Based on a student's PSAT score, they might be recommended to take an AP course. AP (advanced placement) is a program of classes developed by the college board to give high school students an introduction to college-level classes and also gain college credit before even graduating high school. These courses are more difficult than the usual high school class and also require passing an AP exam at the end of the year to gain the college credit.

AP exams are tests on everything you've learned in your AP class that year. They're scored on a scale from 1 to 5 with any score above 3 considered passing, though some schools will only accept 4's and 5's for credit. Taking AP courses and passing the tests are signs that you're prepared for college and can put you at the top of the list for admissions if you're smart about which ones to take.



Advanced Placement (AP)

AP Courses offered at Weston High School

AP English Language

AP Studio Art

AP Calculus AB

AP Statistics

AP Biology

AP Physics I

AP Environmental Science

AP US Government & Politics

AP Psychology

AP French Language & Culture

AP Latin

AP English Literature

AP Music Theory

AP Calculus BC

AP Computer Science A & Principles

AP Chemistry

AP Physics C

AP US History

AP Human Geography

AP Economics Macro & Micro

AP Spanish Language & Culture



SAT

The SAT is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States. It covers three academic skill areas: Reading, Writing & Language, and Math.

- A student's total score can range from 400 - 1600.
- Within the total score a student is broken down into two section scores, (1) Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and (2) Math. The SAT contains three tests: (1) Reading, (2) Writing and Language, and (3) Math, but the Reading test and the Writing and Language test are combined into one section. The two section scores added together equal a student's total score.
- In 2019, the average SAT score was 1050. Any score above that would be above average and perfectly acceptable for many colleges. A score of 1350 would put you in the top 10% of test takers and help make your application competitive at more selective schools.



SAT School Day

The state of CT requires all juniors to take the SAT in March during the school day. Students are automatically registered for this exam with CollegeBoard at no cost to the student or district. The data from this SAT administration is used to report levels of achievement by district to the state. Students can choose to use these scores for college, if they so choose. For the past 2 years, SAT School Day administrations have been digital.



ACT

The ACT is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States. It covers four academic skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and scientific reasoning. The ACT also offers an optional direct writing test.

- A students' Composite score and each test score (English, mathematics, reading, science) range from 1 (low) to 36 (high). The Composite score is the average of a students four test scores, rounded to the nearest whole number. Fractions less than one-half are rounded down; fractions one-half or more are rounded up.
- ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are the ACT scores that indicate that students are ready for common first-year college courses.
- Educators have come to rely on the Benchmarks as an indicator of readiness for college and careers. The Benchmarks can be used to aid in college course placement decisions and identify students who need additional academic support.



What schools require standardized testing?

Schools That Require Applicants Submit SAT or ACT Scores

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Georgetown University (DC)

University of Florida

Georgia Institute of Technology

University of Georgia

Florida State University

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Gallaudet University (DC)

Florida International University

University of Central Florida



How do we advise our students.....

- In December, after students receive their PSAT scores, parents and students are invited to the *Junior College Kickoff: Beginning the College Search and Admissions Process* evening presentation.
- Individual post-secondary meetings with their school counselor & Ms. Green.
- Course Selection Meetings
- Planning Visits
- Junior Seminars in May
- Camp College - Early August
- Application Workshops in the fall of Senior Year
- Ms. Green works solely with seniors from August until December of their senior year.