

October 15, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the winter of 2010, District 204 will once again be offering the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) to middle school students in an effort to identify students with exceptional academic abilities.

It is highly recommended the following students participate in the SAT testing:

- Any district math accelerated student in 6th or 7th grade wishing to qualify for the district Project Arrow (PA) program in 7th and 8th grade respectively. **Students wishing to qualify for the PA program must have an SAT math score for consideration.**
- Any current Project Arrow or math accelerated student (grades 6-8) wanting to *practice* taking this high school exam and receive an appraisal of their mathematical and critical reading abilities as compared to those of average high school juniors and seniors nationwide.

Please note: District 204 administers the mathematics and critical reading sections of the SAT exam *only*. We do not administer the essay writing section. Copies of SAT exam scores are provided to parents and District 204. Score reports will not be sent to other schools or institutions through this district SAT exam administration.

Enclosed you will find further information regarding the testing. Please review this information carefully. If you would like your child to participate in the testing, please complete, sign, and mail the application to the address listed below. Applications must be postmarked no later than November 13th.

**Indian Prairie School District
c/o Pam Marski, Instructional Services
780 Shoreline Drive
Aurora, IL 60504**

A check in the amount of \$50.00 (payable to Indian Prairie S.D. 204), to cover the testing registration fee, must also accompany the completed application form. Checks are non-refundable. Please note the information regarding financial assistance.

You will receive confirmation in mid-December. Further information will be mailed closer to the date of the test. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Nelson (District 204) at 630/375-3044.

Sincerely,

Allison L. Sherman, M.A.Ed.
Director of Core Curriculum

**Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
District 204 Annual Administration**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should take the SAT exam?

- Any district math accelerated student in 6th or 7th grade wishing to qualify for the district Project Arrow (PA) program in 7th and 8th grade respectively. **Students wishing to qualify for the PA program must have an SAT math score for consideration.**
- Any current Project Arrow or math accelerated student (grades 6-8) wanting to *practice* taking this high school exam and receive an appraisal of their mathematical and critical reading abilities as compared to those of average high school juniors and seniors nationwide.

What are the benefits of participating in the SAT testing?

- The SAT exam measures literacy, numeracy, and writing skills needed for academic success in college. In addition, it assesses how well test takers analyze and solve problems – skills they learned in school and will need in college. The exam is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. However, it is also administered nationally to middle school students for the purposes of identifying students with exceptional abilities in the area of reading and math. Middle school students receive an appraisal of their mathematical and critical reading abilities as compared to those of average high school juniors and seniors nationwide.
- District 204 uses the scores from the mathematics exam section as one required measure to qualify for the Project Arrow (PA) program grades 7-8. **Math accelerated students in 6th grade** who wish to qualify for the PA program in 7th grade, **must a cut-off score of 480** on the SAT test and pass a summer fast-paced Pre-Algebra course prior to the start of 7th grade. **Math accelerated students in 7th grade** who wish to qualify for the PA program in 8th grade, **must meet a cut-off score of 520 on the SAT** and pass a summer fast-paced Algebra course prior to the start of 8th grade.

Where and when will the SAT testing be held in District 204?

- The SAT exam will be administered at **Still Middle School in District 204:
787 Meadowridge Drive, Aurora, IL, 60504**
- Students have the option to choose between two different test dates:
January 23 (7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
OR
February 13 (7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

Test dates fill up quickly. To reserve your preferred date, please reply promptly.
Students are expected to stay during the entire testing window.

What is the structure of the SAT exam?

- District 204 administers two sections of the SAT exam – **critical reading and mathematics**. Each section receives a score on a scale of 200-800.
- The **Critical Reading section** is made up of three scored sections: two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section, with varying types of questions, including sentences completions and questions about short and long reading passages.
- The **Mathematics section** is made up of three scores sections: one 25-minute section of 20 multiple choice questions, one 25-minute section 8 multiple choice questions and 10 grid-in questions, and one 20-minute section of 16 multiple choice questions.

How can students prepare for the SAT exam?

- While it is not expected students *study* for this exam, students may want to familiarize themselves with the format of the exam by reviewing test preparation materials. Students can access test practice materials online in the SAT Preparation Center at www.collegeboard.com/satprep

When do students receive their test scores? To whom are these scores distributed?

- A copy of the test scores will be sent by mail to the attention of parents/guardians. Another copy is provided for District 204. Scores are received approximately six weeks after the test administration.

What is the cost of participating in the SAT testing?

- The **total cost** for participating in the District 204 SAT testing is **\$50.00**. A check payable to Indian Prairie School District 204 should be enclosed with the application form. *Checks are non-refundable*. Families who have qualified for District 204 financial assistance should note this on the application form and are not required to enclose payment. Fee waiver applications will be verified through the Support Services Department.

