

Guidance in the Classroom



LANCASTER
MENNONITE
SCHOOL

-Grade 11-

Included in Packet:

- College Planning Tips for Juniors
- PSAT Case Study – How to interpret your PSAT results*
- Preparing for SAT with the PSAT program*
- College Planning Calendar for Seniors
- Academic Portfolio* (some aspects relate to the graduation requirements at Lancaster Mennonite)

*Resources provided by The College Board – www.collegeboard.com

College Planning Tips for 11th Grade Students at Lancaster Mennonite School

1. Visit the Guidance Career Center

- a. Many available resources
 - i. SAT/ACT Information
 - ii. College Search Information
 - iii. Scholarship Information
 - iv. Computers available for research, registration & assessments
 - v. College reps visits in the fall

Junior advisory groups will be invited, one group at a time, to the guidance career center for a brief presentation from the guidance team in the spring semester.

2. Guidance Website

The guidance section of LMH's website has many great tools and resources available

- vi. College Planning Calendar
- vii. Online Resources & Searches
- viii. Popular Links to College Board, Common Application & more

www.lancastermennonite.org/guidance

3. **College Representatives** – meet with college representatives that come visit our campus. Pay attention to morning announcements and sign up for an appointment at the guidance office. A complete list is also available on the guidance section of the school's website.
4. **College Visitations** – plan to visit colleges this semester and the summer before your senior year. Watch for prospective student visitor days announced by colleges. You are encouraged to visit colleges on the weekends, on days when LMH does not have school or during the summer. However, excused absences from school for college visits can be arranged by completing an Educational Activity Excuse Request and submitting it to the office at least 5 school days prior to your visitation day.
5. **Take Admissions Test** – students are encouraged to take either the SAT or ACT during the spring of their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year. Test dates and registration dates can be found online or in the guidance career center.
6. **Meet With Your School Counselor** – each of you are assigned a school counselor for the duration of your time at Lancaster Mennonite School. They are available to meet with you to help answer your questions about the college admissions process.
7. **Take Rigorous Courses** – as you select courses for you senior year, College Board suggests that the best way to prepare for the SAT and for college is to take rigorous courses in high school.
8. **Monthly Emails** – the guidance office sends monthly emails to your family with important information. Please make sure your family receives these emails on a monthly basis.

PSAT/NMSQT[®]
Score Report Plus

Critical Reading

Mathematics

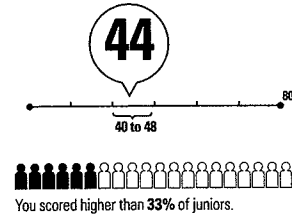
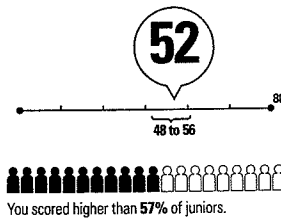
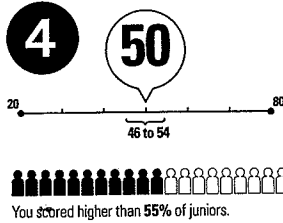
Writing Skills

Your Score

Section Scores Also see your projected SAT[®] score at www.collegeboard.com/sat.

Score Range Scores in this range are similar to yours.

Percentile The percentage of test-takers who scored below your score.



National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Your Selection Index
Sum of scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills.
146

Percentile
Compares your performance with college-bound juniors.
47

Entry Requirements
Minimum SAT score: 1000
Minimum PSAT score: 32
Minimum GPA: 3.0
Yes

Eligibility Information
Eligible for selection if you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, a high school senior, and a member of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Your score must be at least 146.

5

Your Skills

These skill categories can help you understand your score and focus your study efforts before you take the test.

To learn more about your skills and review sample questions for improvement based on your test performance, visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and sign in using your code below.

Online Access Code
A02670146P

Determining the Meaning of Words	9 of 15 questions correct (0 omitted)
Author's Craft: Style, Tone & Technique	3 of 5 questions correct (0 omitted)
Reasoning & Inference	8 of 10 questions correct (2 omitted)
Organization & Ideas	2 of 8 questions correct (2 omitted)
Understanding Literary Elements	4 of 10 questions correct (0 omitted)

Number & Operations	12 of 15 questions correct (1 omitted)
Algebra & Functions	5 of 5 questions correct (0 omitted)
Geometry & Measurement	8 of 10 questions correct (2 omitted)
Data, Statistics & Probability	6 of 8 questions correct (1 omitted)

Grammatical Relationships between Words	3 of 12 questions correct (1 omitted)
Words & Phrases Used to Modify or Compare	1 of 5 questions correct (2 omitted)
Phrases & Clauses	6 of 10 questions correct (2 omitted)
Correctly Formed Sentences	1 of 6 questions correct (4 omitted)
Relationships of Sentences & Paragraphs	2 of 6 questions correct (3 omitted)

Get suggestions for improving your skills before you take the SAT.
www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

Your Answers

See test questions and review explanations of the answers at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart.

You can also ask your counselor for a copy of your test book back so you can review the questions.

Key
p Correct e Easy
o Omitted m Medium
u Unscorable h Hard

Scoring
• Correct answer = PLUS 1 POINT.
• Omitted answers = 0 POINTS.
• Wrong answers to multiple-choice questions = MINUS 1/4 POINT.
• Wrong answers to math questions 29-38 = NO LOST POINTS.
• Points are totaled, then converted to scores on the 20-80 scale.

Question	Correct Answer	Your Answer	Difficulty	Question	Correct Answer	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	e	1	25	D	m	1
2	B	e	2	26	D	e	2
3	A	e	3	27	B	e	3
4	C	A	4	28	A	e	4
5	B	E	5	29	C	e	5
6	D	e	6	30	C	m	6
7	B	e	7	31	C	e	7
8	D	o	8	32	D	h	8
9	B	m	9	33	A	e	9
10	E	B	10	34	D	e	10
11	D	e	11	35	A	e	11
12	C	m	12	36	E	A	12
13	A	m	13	37	C	m	13
14	B	A	14	38	B	m	14
15	A	e	15	39	B	C	15
16	C	m	16	40	C	A	16
17	A	e	17	41	B	e	17
18	E	m	18	42	C	E	18
19	B	e	19	43	E	m	19
20	B	E	20	44	C	m	20
21	E	m	21	45	D	B	21
22	D	B	22	46	A	B	22
23	E	m	23	47	C	E	23
24	A	m	24	48	E	A	24
25	D	e	25				
26	C	E	26				
27	A	C	27				
28	E	o	28				
29	D	A	29				
30	D	C	30				
31	B	e	31				
32	A	C	32				
33	C	D	33				
34	A	C	34				
35	B	e	35				
36	D	e	36				
37	C	A	37				
38	A	B	38				
39	E	C	39				
40	B	m	40				
41	C	D	41				
42	A	C	42				
43	B	E	43				
44	B	E	44				
45	D	E	45				
46	E	C	46				
47	C	E	47				
48	A	B	48				

Find out why you missed questions.
www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

Next Steps

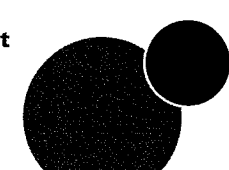
Go online to see your projected SAT scores, learn how to improve them, and find critical college and career planning information.

On test day, you told us that you're interested in **Sport & Fitness Administration/Management**. To learn more about college majors, visit My College QuickStart[™]. There you can also:

- Learn about related careers
- Search for colleges
- Take a personality test

Take the next step today! Go to www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and sign in using your code below.

Online Access Code
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Ima B. Student's Score Report *Plus* Case Study

1 What Were Ima's Scores?

Ima's critical reading score is 50, mathematics is 52, and writing skills is 44. The average 11th-grader's scores are between 47 and 49. Unless students earn scores that are much lower than average, they're probably developing the kinds of critical reading, math reasoning and writing skills needed for academic success in college.

2 What Are Her Score Ranges?

No test measures precisely what someone knows, and many factors can affect results. That is why test makers think of each score as a range that extends from a few points below to a few points above the score earned. Her critical reading and mathematics scores have similar ranges; her writing skills range is lower.

3 What Are Her Score Percentiles?

Since Ima is in the 11th grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all 11th-graders taking the test. (If she were in the 10th grade or younger, she would be compared to all 10th-graders.) Ima earned a critical reading score higher than 55 out of every 100 juniors tested. In math, she scored higher than 57 percent of juniors. Compared with peers who are college bound, Ima's critical reading and math percentiles are somewhat higher than average. She did not do as well on writing skills; she scored higher than 33 percent of juniors on that portion of the test.

4 How Will Ima Do on the SAT?

Ima is able to go online at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart to access her personalized SAT study plan, which includes her projected SAT score ranges, state percentiles, a complete SAT practice test and resources to help her prepare for the essay that appears on the SAT. Using these free resources and taking rigorous courses will help Ima do her best on the SAT.

5 Will Ima Be Able to Enter NMSC Competitions?

Add Ima's critical reading (50), mathematics (52) and writing skills (44) scores; the total of 146 is her Selection Index. This index is used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation to designate groups to be recognized in its scholarship programs. If an asterisk had appeared next to Ima's score, it would mean she does not meet entry requirements for the programs. In this case, Ima meets entry requirements, but her score is not likely to take her further in the competition for awards. For entry requirements and information on how the competitions work, see the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* or visit www.nationalmerit.org.

6 How Can Ima Improve Her Academic Skills?

The Your Skills section provides critical reading, mathematics and writing skills feedback based on Ima's pattern of responses across test questions. Ima can see which skills she performed well on and which she needs to improve. When she goes online and logs in to My College QuickStart, she can access suggestions for improving each of these skills and sample questions that give her additional practice in each skill area.

7 What Can We Learn from Ima's Answers?

The score report is designed to be used with the student's PSAT/NMSQT test booklet. It lists all of Ima's answers and allows her to see the correct answer and difficulty level for each question. Ima can use My Online Score Report in My College QuickStart to review the questions she answered incorrectly or omitted, and complete practice questions of the same type to learn from her results.

8 What Are Ima's Next Steps?

Under Next Steps on Score Report *Plus*, we see that Ima is interested in Sport & Fitness Administration/Management as a college major. Ima can use the access code provided to log in to My College QuickStart and learn more about this major, other majors, and colleges and careers that interest her.

Preparing for the SAT® with the PSAT/NMSQT Program

How Does the PSAT/NMSQT Get Students Ready for the SAT?

The PSAT/NMSQT covers the same topics under the same test conditions as the SAT. Therefore, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT are already familiar with the test content and format and are more comfortable when they take the SAT. Additionally, PSAT/NMSQT Program resources help schools get their students ready.

My SAT Study Plan™ in My College QuickStart

High school students get a free, personalized SAT study plan that includes:

- **Information about the SAT:** An overview of SAT content and a comparison of the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT help students learn what to expect.
- **Testing tips:** The Test-Taking Approaches section provides advice on managing time, reading carefully and tackling various types of questions.
- **Skill improvement advice:** Students receive a guided review of their PSAT/NMSQT results and get advice on how to improve specific academic skills.
- **Sample questions:** Sample questions provide students with additional practice, helping them focus specifically on the skills they want to improve.
- **SAT essay preparation:** Students can learn how the SAT essay is scored and see samples of student-written essays.
- **Official SAT Practice Test:** After learning from their PSAT/NMSQT results, students can take an SAT practice test to see which skills to focus on.
- **Express SAT sign-up:** Students can register quickly for the SAT using pre-populated information that they supplied for the PSAT/NMSQT.

Students can access their personalized study plans at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart.

Skills Insight

The new PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight tool was designed to help students and teachers gain a better understanding of how scores relate to specific academic skills. It offers descriptions of performance and insight into skills measured at each PSAT/NMSQT score band.

It also provides actionable suggestions for improving skills and sample questions that help students gain additional practice.

Practice with Official SAT Resources

Students can:

- Answer a different SAT practice question every day for free with The Official SAT Question of the Day™.
- Take an Official SAT Practice Test for free, see how they score and get detailed answer explanations to help them understand where they need to improve.
- Subscribe to The Official SAT Online Course™, with 18 interactive lessons, 10 official practice tests, sample essays, auto essay scoring, personalized score reports and more.
- Order *The Official SAT Study Guide™: Second Edition* featuring 10 official practice tests, hundreds of practice questions and test-taking approaches.

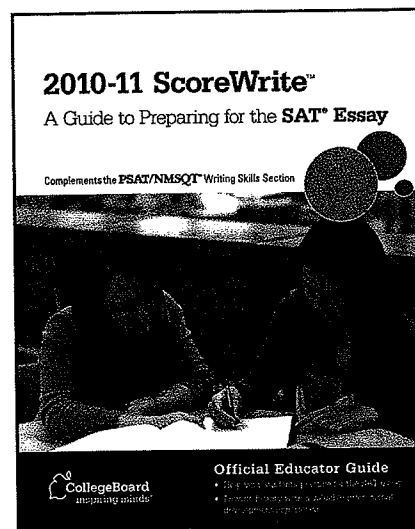
To access these free and affordable resources, build a tailored study plan and much more, students should visit sat.collegeboard.com/practice.

Prepare Students for the SAT Essay

ScoreWrite: A Guide to Preparing for the SAT Essay is now available online for free at www.collegeboard.com/scorewrite. The *ScoreWrite* guide complements the PSAT/NMSQT by providing everything your school needs to administer a practice SAT essay-writing session, including an SAT practice essay prompt, sample papers at each score level, and instructions for training staff and running a schoolwide scoring session.

Setting up a timed practice writing session using *ScoreWrite* will give students a chance to practice writing an essay in a standardized setting and become familiar with the type of writing task that appears on the SAT. Also, *ScoreWrite* trains teachers to score essays holistically using the SAT Essay Scoring Guide.

Remember to share *ScoreWrite* with your English department.



Using PSAT/NMSQT Scores to Estimate SAT Scores

Critical reading and mathematics questions in the PSAT/NMSQT are the same kind as those in the SAT. The writing skills multiple-choice questions in the PSAT/NMSQT are the same kind as those in the SAT writing section, although the PSAT/NMSQT writing skills section does not have an essay component like the SAT writing section. These similarities are intentional, as the PSAT/NMSQT is designed to get students ready for the SAT.

The PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80 is comparable to the SAT scale of 200 to 800. It is possible to estimate from a student's PSAT/NMSQT score an SAT score range within which a student may expect to fall.

Two times out of three, 11th-graders will earn SAT scores within the predicted SAT ranges. But scores actually earned may be higher (or lower) than these estimates. Students who wish to improve their estimated performance on the SAT should:

- develop academic skills through rigorous course work;
- participate in problem-solving activities; and
- read extensively and develop good writing skills.

Before taking the SAT, students should also become familiar with the test format and question types.

SAT.collegeboard.com has many free and affordable resources to help students get ready for test day.

For more information about how you can help your students prepare and how to access free resources, visit the SAT Counselor Resource Center at

www.collegeboard.com/crc.

Estimated Eleventh-Grade SAT Scores from Eleventh-Grade PSAT/NMSQT Scores

PSAT/NMSQT Score	SAT Critical Reading Range	SAT Math Range	SAT Writing Range
20	240-310	230-290	240-310
21	240-320	230-300	250-320
22	250-320	240-310	250-320
23	250-330	250-320	260-330
24	260-340	250-320	270-340
25	270-350	260-330	270-350
26	270-350	270-340	280-360
27	280-360	270-350	290-370
28	290-370	280-360	300-370
29	300-380	290-370	310-380
30	310-390	300-380	310-390
31	310-390	310-390	320-400
32	320-400	320-390	330-410
33	330-410	330-400	340-420
34	340-420	340-410	350-430
35	350-430	350-420	360-430
36	360-440	360-430	370-440
37	370-440	360-440	370-450
38	380-450	370-450	380-460
39	380-460	380-460	390-470
40	390-470	390-470	400-480
41	400-480	400-470	410-490
42	410-480	410-480	420-500
43	420-490	420-490	430-500
44	430-500	430-500	430-510
45	440-510	440-510	440-520
46	450-520	450-520	450-530
47	460-530	460-530	460-540
48	460-540	460-530	470-550
49	470-540	470-550	480-560
50	480-550	480-560	490-570

PSAT/NMSQT Score	SAT Critical Reading Range	SAT Math Range	SAT Writing Range
51	490-560	490-560	490-570
52	500-570	500-570	500-580
53	510-580	510-580	510-590
54	520-590	520-590	520-600
55	530-600	530-600	530-610
56	540-600	540-610	530-610
57	550-610	550-620	540-620
58	560-620	560-630	550-630
59	560-630	570-630	560-640
60	570-640	570-640	570-650
61	580-650	580-650	580-650
62	590-660	590-660	580-660
63	600-670	600-670	590-670
64	610-680	610-680	600-680
65	620-690	620-690	610-690
66	630-700	630-700	620-690
67	640-710	640-710	620-700
68	650-720	650-720	630-710
69	660-720	660-730	640-720
70	670-730	670-730	650-720
71	680-740	680-740	660-730
72	690-750	690-750	660-740
73	700-760	700-760	670-740
74	710-770	700-760	670-750
75	720-770	710-770	680-750
76	730-780	720-770	690-760
77	740-780	730-780	690-760
78	740-790	730-780	700-770
79	750-790	740-790	710-770
80	750-790	750-790	710-770

The above table shows how scores change for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring.

College Planning Calendar for Seniors at Lancaster Mennonite School

August Prior To Your Senior Year

- Request applications and information from colleges
- Visit school campuses throughout the summer to help narrow down choices
- Look into overnight or weekend college visitation programs
- Take note of upcoming SAT and ACT registration and test dates

September

- Receive college information at a senior class meeting
 - College Planning Calendar for Seniors
 - Instructions & Guidelines for Seniors regarding the College application process
 - College Application Checklist
 - Complete the "Senior Information for Seniors" and "Parent Information for Seniors" paper that you received at the senior class meeting – completed forms need to be returned to the guidance office as soon as possible
- Visit the Guidance Career Center on campus to take advantage of the many useful resources
- Make sure your family receives the monthly email newsletter from the guidance office
- Mark your calendar for local college fairs and when admissions representative visit campus – a complete list of admission rep visitations are on the bulletin board outside the guidance office and are posted online in the guidance section of LMS's website
- Schedule your senior interview with your counselor
- International Seniors can attend an after school International Senior College Planning meeting
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 - SAT or ACT test dates, fees and registration deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Financial aid application forms required and their deadlines
- Visit websites for free test prep and practice exams for the SAT and ACT
- Register for the SAT or ACT
- Visit college campuses – make sure you fill out an Educational Excuse Form 5 days prior to your visit if you are visiting on a school day – you may get this form from the main high school office or on the school's website

October

- Begin completing college applications and essays
- Visit the Guidance Career Center on campus to take advantage of the many useful resources
- Ask teachers and your school counselor to complete recommendation letters and forms – please give them at least 2 weeks to complete these forms
- Request transcripts from the guidance office and letters of recommendations from teachers
- Meet with your school counselor for your senior interview
- Attend local college fairs in Lancaster County and surrounding public schools
- Continue to meet with college admission representatives that come on campus - including Mennonite College Day
- Attend the evening college financial aid & FAFSA seminar night on campus with your family
- Explore scholarship information online – check out the 'resource' page of LMS's guidance website
- If needed, take the SAT or ACT that you may have registered to take

November

- Complete college applications by Thanksgiving
- Try to finalize your college choices
- Give counselors and the guidance office 7-10 school days to send your transcript to colleges – even if you have applied online
- Meet with college admission representatives that come on campus
- Take the SAT or ACT that you may have registered to take – if needed
- If you still have not had your senior interview with your counselor, please schedule it now

December

- As you finish and send your applications and essays (before Christmas!), be sure to keep copies
- Contact the college's financial aid office to see what student aid programs exist on a state or campus level
- Obtain any other financial aid forms that may be required by your target schools. Check with the financial aid offices to see if they have specific financial aid requirements and/or deadlines
- Prepare to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

January

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1. This is required to be considered for most federal, state and college-based aid. The FAFSA serves as the application for the Pennsylvania State Grant Program. You can access the FAFSA online.
- Successfully complete your first semester courses
- Continue a rigorous course selection for second semester – accepting colleges do look at the second semester senior classes and grades which will be on your final high school transcript

February

- Submit all the necessary paperwork or applications for any private or outside scholarships you may have identified
- Be sure you have submitted all required forms: the college admissions application, the FAFSA, any private scholarships, and any state or school-specific forms required for financial aid
- Watch your email for your Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR is the U.S. Department of Education's reply to your submitted FAFSA and summarizes your financial aid eligibility for federal programs

March

- Keep active in school – accepting colleges do look at the second semester senior classes and grades which will be on your final high school transcript
- If you are enrolled in an AP course, ask your teacher about the AP test in May
 - Contact your college to see if they will accept your AP credit and to see what score is necessary to receive college credit

April

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Make a final enrollment decision and submit enrollment deposit, if requested
- If a school accepted you but you will not be attending, notify the school of your decision not to attend
- Consider signing up to take AP exams if you are enrolled in an AP course

May

- Successfully complete second semester classes
- Request the guidance office to send your final high school transcript to the college you are attending
- The deadline for the Pennsylvania State Grant (FAFSA Application) is May 1 – check with the financial aid office to see if they have specific FAFSA application requirements and/or deadlines
- Take any AP exams you signed up to take

June & July

- Participate in commencement!
- Complete any remaining student aid forms
- Plan for college orientation, transportation and housing for the fall
- If you have not done so, request the guidance office to send your final high school transcript to the college you are attending

Create a solid academic portfolio

Your course schedule may seem like a random selection of classes to you, but college admissions officers see it as the blueprint of your high school education. They're looking for a solid foundation of learning that you can build on in college.

Take at least five solid academic classes every semester. The following subjects and classes are standard fare for success in high school and beyond, whether you plan to attend a four-year, two-year or technical school.

<p>English (Language Arts)</p> <p>Take English every year. Traditional courses such as American and English literature help you improve your writing skills, reading comprehension and vocabulary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature• Writing/composition and/or speech <p>Math</p> <p>To succeed on the SAT®, in college math classes and in most careers, you need algebra and geometry. Take them early on, and you'll be able to enroll in advanced science and math in high school — and you'll show colleges you're ready for higher-level work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algebra I• Geometry• Algebra II• Trigonometry and/or calculus <p>Science</p> <p>Science teaches you to think analytically and to apply theories to observations of the natural world. Laboratory classes let you test what you've learned through hands-on work. Six semesters are recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Chemistry and/or physics• Earth/space sciences, advanced biology, advanced chemistry or physics	<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Understand local and world events that are happening now by studying the culture and history that have shaped them. Social sciences round out your core curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two semesters of U.S. history• One semester of U.S. government• One semester of economics• One semester of world history or geography• One additional semester of these or other areas <p>Foreign Languages</p> <p>Solid foreign language study shows colleges you're willing to stretch beyond the basics. Many colleges require at least two years of foreign language study, and some prefer more.</p> <p>The Arts</p> <p>Research indicates that students who participate in the arts often do better in school and on standardized tests. The arts help you recognize patterns, discern differences and similarities, and exercise your mind in unique ways, often outside of a traditional classroom setting.</p> <p>Computer Courses</p> <p>More and more college courses and jobs require at least a basic knowledge of computers. Computer skills also can help you do research and schoolwork better and faster.</p>
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Source: www.collegeboard.com

