

# Are the SATS worth taking?

By Sharon Lin '24



One of the most stressful times is here for sophomores, juniors, and seniors as the SATs and PSATs are approaching. The real question is, are the SATs worth taking?

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, most colleges and universities required students to take the SATs. However, many college application elements have changed over the years and one of the main elements that have changed for students is the choice of taking the SATs.

One benefit students can get from taking the SATs are the scholarships. A high SAT score can help you obtain scholarships.

Scholarships can be a great way to reduce the cost of people's college tuition. Everyone knows that college expenses can be exorbitant.

With this in mind, people can take the PSAT to prepare for the SAT and people also can win a National Merit Scholarship. The National Merit Scholarship program provides students with scholarships who scores high on the PSATs.

Students can get up to \$2,500 in scholarships and students can list that information on their college applications as well.

The SATs takes a lot of practice. The College-Board is known to make the questions in very weird ways.

Students need to learn how to deconstruct the questions to find their true meaning. Most people take the SATs during their junior year which means they've learned most of the topics that are on the SATs.

What makes the SATs hard is that it is a timed test so you only get a certain amount of time. Many students often get nervous about the time limit and usually start panicking during the end of the test when they are running out of time.

A great way to relieve that stress is to take the PSATs which is a pre-SAT test that can show you your results on how you did if this was the real SATs. The PSATs are really similar to the SATs. They have the same time limit and same types of

questions.

Additionally, the SATs can be a tremendous way to challenge yourself and your knowledge. It can also allow you to have a better possibility of getting into your dream college or university.

Especially when you apply to a competitive college, your SAT score can really help determine whether or not you are suitable. Indicating your SAT score on your college application can allow your college to know your knowledge level. Of course your SAT scores don't determine everything. There are other numerous factors that can show your talents and abilities.

In conclusion, the SATs are worth taking if you plan on going to college or university. It's a great way to earn scholarships for your college tuition.

Many seniors this year who did not take the SATs say they regret not taking the test because of the benefits offered when you take the tests. If you're not satisfied with your SAT score, you can always retake them or choose not to put it in your application because there are many other ways to show your academic excellence beyond the SATs.

# School Shootings and How They Affect You and Me

By Lilian Mahoney '24

With a new school year, comes the same old concerns. A prominent issue in schools around the country is the amount of shootings occurring recently.

Though a current problem, school shootings are not just the latest news headline. The first ever school shooting was in 1764 in Greencastle, Pennsylvania killing ten people, these acts of terrorism haven't stopped, but instead have only become more popular and normalized in our community.

Due to the rising percentages of school shootings, preparedness is not only needed, but expected as well. All schools have their own lockdown drills in case of an active shooter in the building, you are to go to the closest classroom you can find, hide, and pray for your life.

As of recently, teachers have made these drill formalities more prevalent in our day to day curriculum.

Not only have school shootings affected the curriculum and drill procedures, they have also had a huge effect on our students' and faculties' mental health.

Overall, 57% percent of students are afraid of a school shooting happening at their school. This fear can cause anxiety rates to rise to unnecessarily high amounts.

Along with this, 6.7% of students skip school because of a fear of school shootings, leading to a high absentee rate. Both of these factors contribute to yet another reason students may not be learning in the classroom.

When asked about how the recent school shootings have affected them, our students gave heartbreaking answers. Junior, Evelyn Saltz, said "To be completely honest, mass shootings have been so normalized in America that I have grown to accept the lockdown drills and hysteria. It's an upsetting thought, but it's true.. Guns are so easily accessible and sometimes security can only do so much. Overall, they have me being a lot more aware of my surroundings."

Another student, Baraa Kamal, said "... It's been happening for years and each year we use it as a wake up call to be more adamant on laws like these and then each year nothing

happens. Kids dying always and should affect the country... I think it makes us more aware of our surroundings and makes schools more prepared for possibly a similar event... "

When it comes to preventing a school shooting at our school, while some are unable to be prevented, the other can be prevented with kindness. 17% of school shooters were diagnosed with a mental disorder, while a whopping 78% had a history of suicide attempts or suicide ideations.

You can never know what a person is going through outside of school, what their homelife is like, or what their mental health is like. So before you make a rude comment or do something out of hate, think of what the repercussions of your action could be.