Dear 8th grade Family(ies),

I hope that your school year is off to a great start!

As you begin looking ahead to the transition to high school, I am reaching out to provide information regarding the CPS High School Admissions Test (HSAT) and its role in the 2027–28 school year GoCPS application process.

Starting this fall, CPS is replacing the previous HSAT with the **PreACT 9 Secure** exam. All 8th-grade students will take this exam during the school day, and results will be used as part of the application for those students who are applying to selective enrollment and choice programs for the 2027-28 school year.

This new exam offers several benefits:

- It will provide high school educators with valuable information to help them place students in the appropriate courses as they begin 9th-grade.
- It will better prepare students for the ACT exam that they will complete later in high school.
- And, it will increase equity by granting families access to free, widely available practice materials.

Details on the Testing Experience

The HSAT is an online exam that will be administered to all 8th-grade students during the school day on Wednesday, October 7. Students who are not in school on this day will take the exam during a makeup window from **October 12 - 23. Makeups are for students who truly are ill on initial test day not to give your student additional time to prepare.**

The test will take approximately 2.5 hours to complete, and will cover the content areas of English, Math, Reading, and Science, with calculators being permitted on the Math portion only. The HSAT will be administered to all students in English, with our English Learners receiving standard accommodations.

Test Details: Tests are administered in the order listed below with a mandatory break between Math and Reading for all standard test takers. Students with 504/IEP accommodations will be followed according to those documents.

Subject	# of Questions	Time
English	44	35
Math	34	45
Reading	33	40
Science	32	35

Important GoCPS & Testing Dates

- **GoCPS Application Opens:** Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 10 a.m.
- **Primary HSAT Testing Date::** Wednesday, October 7, 2026
- **Makeup Testing Window:** October 12 – October 23, 2026
- **GoCPS Application Closes:** Friday, November 13, 2026 at 5 p.m.

The GoCPS High School Admissions process uses the composite PreACT 9 Secure score for admission to selective enrollment and some choice programs. The composite score is made up of the English, Reading, and Math sections of the PreACT 9 Secure. While the Science section of the exam will not factor into this composite score, it will be important for helping high school principals provide students with the right course placement in 9th-grade, so we urge students to give this section as much effort as they do the rest of the test.

How to Support Your Student

There are many ways that families can help students feel confident and prepared for this exam:

- **Access Free Practice Materials:** Families can access free online PreACT 9 practice resources here.
- **Prioritize Rest and On-Time Arrival:** Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep before test day and arrives at school on time on October 7.
- **Encourage a Positive Mindset:** Remind your student to manage their time, read directions carefully, and tackle one question at a time.

To explore CPS high school programs, review the full GoCPS timeline, or access test scores later this fall, please visit **go.cps.edu** or contact the CPS Office of Access and Enrollment at **gocps@cps.edu**.

If you have any questions about the PreACT 9 Secure testing experience for your child, please contact us at the school for testing questions.

I thank you for your partnership and look forward to a great 8th-grade year!

Sincerely,

Tara Shelton
Principal

Mrs. Brewer
Counselor/HSAT Coordinator