

COLLINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
2201 SOUTH MORRISON AVE.
COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS
"THE HIGH SCHOOL OF
CHAMPIONS"



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **What CHS is doing to help YOU!**
- **What is the PSAE?**
- **What Can I Do To Prepare?**
- **PSAE Incentives**
- **Resources To Help You on The Test**

The Kahok Current

PRAIRIE STATE EDITION

MARCH 2008

The Prairie State Exam: What Is It?

On Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24, all juniors throughout the state of Illinois will be taking the PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam). This two-day test is mandated by federal and state law. All Collinsville High School juniors will be taking this very important exam.

The Prairie State

Achievement Examination measures the achievement of junior students across the state relative to the Illinois Learning Standards for reading, math, science, and writing.

The PSAE includes three components: First, the ACT Plus Writing, which includes the ACT battery of four

multiple-choice tests (English, mathematics, reading, and science) and a 30-minute constructed-response writing test with a single prompt question; second, an ISBE developed science assessment; and third, two Work Keys assessments in Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information.

Why Should The PSAE Be Important To Me?

- The PSAE scores are a reflection of your school and you as a student. The better you do, the better our school looks to the community.
- You can earn incentives this year for meeting and/or exceeding on tests!
- Because your PSAE results are printed on your transcript, colleges, universities, and potential employers will see your scores. These scores could have either a positive or negative impact on your future.
- It's a free ACT test! The PSAE saves you \$44.50!
- You can be recognized at the annual Honors Convocation with a Prairie State Achievement Award from the state of Illinois.



Collinsville
High School
Home of the
Kahoks

*“Be the change
you want to see
in the world.”*

-Ghandi

*“Help be
the
change*

*you want
to see at
CHS.”*

A Word From Mr. Flohr

On April 23 and 24 Collinsville High School will again have an opportunity to demonstrate excellence as an outstanding high school with an incredibly capable student body. The emergence of the PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam) coupled with the national program, NCLB (No Child Left Behind), has possibly created the most aggressive education reform program in the history of Illinois. The PSAE has become the assessment tool by which all Illinois students and high schools are evaluated and compared. Please encourage your son or daughter to put forth the best effort possible on these high stakes exams. It is imperative that all students achieve at their highest level.

To help your son or daughter be prepared to take the test, our School Improvement Team will be providing FREE breakfast both days in our Auxiliary Gym from 7:15am-7:45am.

Also, please remind your child to wear their “I Can Dew” T-shirt on the first testing day!

Let’s show the Metro East area that Collinsville High School is a champion on the field and in the academic realm. Be proud to be a Kahok!

What You Need To Bring With You For The Test

On Both Test Days All Students Must Bring the Following Items With Them:

- Several number 2 lead pencils (NO MECHANICAL PENCILS ARE ALLOWED!)
- A Calculator (The only calculators that you cannot have are TI 89 or TI-92.
- A Photo ID
- Please wear a watch so you can keep track of the time while taking the exams.
- Dress comfortably both days.
- A great attitude!
- Cell phones, pagers, I-Pods, and book bags, etc. are NOT ALLOWED!

Test Preparation Resources

For Extra Help With PSAE, please visit the following websites:

www.kahoks.org/CHS/Library_Media_Center/index.htm

www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html

www.number2.com

www.4tests.com

www.hehs.d211.org/people/thomasm/testprep/testpreplinks.htm

www.d230.org/Sandburg/PSAE/PSAEReadingSection.pdf

www.d230.org/Sandburg/PSAE/PSAEMathSection.pdf

www.d230.org/Sandburg/PSAE/PSAEScienceSection.pdf

www.u46.k12.il.us/shs/anthonygregory/6799.htm

Important Test Taking Tips

- Be sure you are rested and comfortable. Make sure you get a good night's sleep!
- If you take a test when you are hungry or tired, you won't perform well. Be sure to eat breakfast before the test in the Auxiliary Gym! It's FREE!
- Know what to expect. Learn ahead of time the kind of test it will be, where and when it will be held, and what materials to bring.
- Arrive on time to avoid last-minute pressure. Make sure you are at CHS by 7:45am.
- Expect some anxiety. Being concerned will help you do your best on a test.
- Keep a positive attitude. Decide to do your best and focus on the material you know and stay focused when taking the test.
- Concentrate on the test.
- Pay close attention to one question at a time. This kind of concentration reduces anxiety.
- Relax as much as you can. If you're too nervous to think or read carefully, try to slow down and take several slow, deep breaths.



Do your best on the test!

PSAE Junior Incentives This Year

We want to reward you for doing your best on the test this year. The following incentives will be available to all juniors who take the PSAE in April:

If you EXCEED ON ALL AREAS of the Test You Will Get...

- A FREE Parking Sticker and your CHOICE of a parking spot.
- A Senior Final Exam Exemption All Year.
- A \$35 Prom Voucher.
- All other incentives listed to the right!

If you MEET on ALL AREAS of the test you will get...

- A "No Final Exams Exemption Certificate" for the Second Semester of your Senior Year (No Finals the last semester Senior Year!)
- 2 No Study Hall Passes each semester to have an extended lunch.
- A "Kahok PSAE Pass" (Yes, it's FREE) to all CHS HOME athletic events as well as the Homecoming Dance, Winter Ball, and Spring Dance.

For EVERY test you MEET or EXCEED on you will get...

- Your name placed in a drawing for INCREDIBLE PRIZES at the next school year's first Pep Assembly!!!

ALL STUDENTS THIS YEAR WILL BE FED BREAKFAST FROM 7:15am to 7:45am in the Auxiliary Gym.

Do your best on the test!

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Thank you to the following businesses and organizations who provided funding to make this year's PSAE Incentives possible (as of 3/11/2008):

- *First Community Bank
- *X2 Collision
- *Herbert A. Kassly Funeral Home
- *Ameren
- *Volkert and Associates, Inc.
- *Fantastic Sam's
- *Kaleidoscope of Kids
- *Drs. Strieter and Hendricks of the Family Eye Clinic
- *Scott Credit Union
- *and The Mattea Law Firm who donated \$2,300 to the cause!



Collinsville High School

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