



FAQ's

Placement Test | Diocese of Palm Beach

1. **What is the High School Placement Test (HSPT)?** The HSPT is designed specifically to aid with academic placement for students entering high school. The test provides measures in the major skill areas and cognitive skill criteria. Students who apply timely and take the placement test in December are eligible for scholarships and priority admission.
2. **Why does my child have to take this test?** The HSPT assists with admissions, scholarship selection, and curriculum placement. Regardless of where your child attends high school, it is an excellent tool you can utilize.
3. **How do I sign up to take the test?** To register for the HSPT, complete a [JCHS Application](#) and pay the \$100 application fee.
4. **How can I get a copy of my child's scores?** Test results will be distributed to all students who complete an application. The results will be sent to the address provided in your application for admission in January.
5. **What subjects are included on the test?** The HSPT consists of five sections.
 - a. **Verbal Skills:** Focused on synonyms, antonyms, analogies, and logic. It measures how well you perform reasoning tasks involving the use of words.
 - b. **Quantitative Skills:** Measures your ability to do reasoning problems involving numbers and quantities.
 - c. **Reading:** Measures your ability to remember important ideas and details, recognize central thought or purpose, make logical inferences, and understand vocabulary in context.
 - d. **Mathematics:** This tests your ability to perform arithmetic operations and apply math concepts to solve problems. Also tests your knowledge of important concepts and your ability to reason.
 - e. **Language:** This section measures your knowledge of capitalization, punctuation, grammar, spelling, usage, and composition.
6. **What time does the test start, and how long is the test?**
 - Saturday, December 6th, the test starts at 9 a.m. Students should report to the main office between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. The test is 3 hours long.
 - Students attending a partner school (St. Anastasia, St. Helen, St. Joseph) will take the test during a regular school day.

7. **Where will testing take place?** The HSPT will occur at John Carroll Catholic High School, 3402 Delaware Avenue, Ft. Pierce, FL.
8. **What can my child bring to the test?**
- Light sweater or jacket.
 - Positive attitude and well-rested state of mind.
 - NO CALCULATORS, cell phones, and smartwatches will be collected before the test.
 - Water bottle & snack.
9. **What if my child needs extra time?** Students enrolled in a partner school who are eligible for extended time will automatically be added to the extra time list. Those from other schools who qualify for extra time must indicate their eligibility on their admission application and provide the required documentation.
10. **If my child finishes early, can they leave?** Each section of the test is timed, and students are not permitted to leave the testing area early.
11. **How should my child prepare for the HSPT?** All that is needed to prepare for this test is a well-rounded education. Students are also encouraged to get a good night's rest and eat a well-balanced breakfast. Study guides and test preparation are not recommended for the placement test. Learn more here: <https://ststesting.com/hspt/>
12. **How is the HSPT scored?**
- a. The number of questions answered correctly are added up for each subtest.
 - i. Take an educated guess. Whenever possible, narrow down your choices and make your best guess. The HSPT does not penalize for incorrect answers: it gives points for correct ones. It is better to guess than to leave one blank.
 - b. Points are not subtracted for incorrect answers.
 - c. Raw scores (the number of correct answers) are then converted to standard scores and national percentile rankings for each sub-test. Please visit <https://ststesting.com/hspt/> to learn more.
13. **If my child scores low, can they retake the test?** Students are not permitted to retake the HSPT. This test is just one component of placement. A student's entire academic record will be considered, including but not limited to report cards and other standardized test scores (Terra Nova, MAP etc).
14. **When will I know my child's placement and receive a class list?** Once enrolled, the guidance office will notify you of your child's academic placement in the Spring. Placement is based on your child's complete academic record and the HSPT test score.



Tips for the High School Placement Test

BEFORE THE EXAM:

- **Get Plenty of Rest:** Go to bed early and eat a good breakfast.

BRING THE FOLLOWING WITH YOU ON EXAM DAY:

- Light sweater or jacket.
- NO CALCULATORS. Cell phones and smartwatches will be collected before the test.
- Water bottle & snack.

DURING THE EXAM:

- **Don't try to beat the test:** Your goal should simply be to do your very best.
- **Keep a positive attitude:** Try to stay relaxed throughout the test. Don't worry if others finish before you; focus on the test in front of you.
- **Breaks will be given.** You may quietly have a snack or take a quick bathroom break during these times.
- **Read each question carefully:** Make sure you understand what is being asked before attempting to answer. All of the questions are in multiple-choice format. Come up with your best answer before looking at the possible answers, and read all the choices before choosing your answer.
- **Take an educated guess:** Whenever possible, narrow down your choices and make your best guess. **The HSPT does not penalize for incorrect answers: it gives points for correct answers.** It's better to guess than leave one blank.
- **If you can't make an educated guess, skip it and come back later.** *You must manage your time and keep moving at a steady pace.* If you can't come up with a best guess, continue with the rest of the test and come back to the question later. There may be something on another part of the test that will help you out with that question.
- **Check your work:** Take advantage of any extra time you have if you finish before time is called. Ensure that you have answered all the questions and that all bubbles are marked on your Scantron.