



PREPARATION WITH PURPOSE™

LAGNIAPPE

TEST PREPARATION WITH PURPOSE

A FAMILY GUIDE TO BUILDING
A SMARTER TEST-PREPARATION PLAN



UNDERSTAND
the Tests



BUILD
Strong Skills



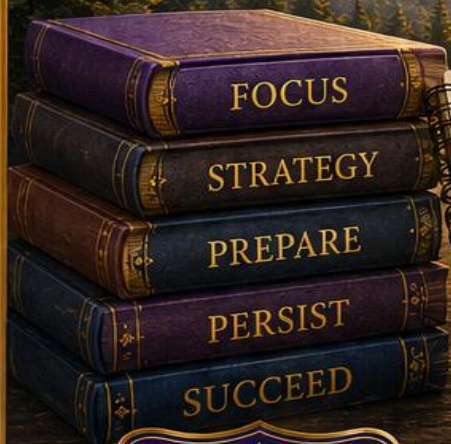
PLAN
with Purpose



PRACTICE
with Strategy



PERFORM
with Confidence



Our Test-Prep Plan

- ☒ Set Goals
- ☒ Know Your Test
- ☒ Build Skills Daily
- ☒ Practice Smart
- ☒ Review & Improve
- ☒ Test with Confidence

PREPARE TODAY.
SUCCEED TOMORROW.



One Purposeful
Step at a Time.



STRONG SKILLS
RIGHT NOW
•
BETTER SCORES
LATER
•
MORE OPTIONS
AHEAD



PREPARATION + PRACTICE + PURPOSE = POSSIBILITY

YOU CAN PREPARE. YOU CAN ACHIEVE. YOU CAN WIN.

Test Preparation With Purpose

A Family Guide to Building a Smarter Test-Preparation Plan

Standardized testing can feel overwhelming, especially when families are trying to decide where to begin, which resources to use, and whether additional tutoring or test-preparation programs are necessary.

Before spending money, start with information.

The goal of test preparation is not simply to complete more practice questions. It is to understand what you already know, where you need additional support, and how to use your preparation time wisely.

This Lagniappe gives you a simple system for doing exactly that.

Start With a Baseline

Before creating a study plan, find out where you are starting.

Use an official practice test or assessment appropriate for the exam you are preparing to take. Your first score is not a prediction of your future performance. It is simply information that can help you identify your strengths and the areas that need more attention.

After completing your baseline assessment, record:

- Test or assessment:
- Date completed:
- Overall score:
- Reading/Writing score:
- Math score:
- Areas that felt strongest:
- Areas that felt most challenging:
- Skills I need to strengthen:

Prepare Today

Don't focus only on the total score. Look beneath the number.

Ask yourself:

What does this score tell me I should work on next?

Build Your Skills Gap Tracker

A practice test becomes more useful when you understand **why** you missed a question.

Instead of simply marking an answer wrong and moving on, look for patterns. Those patterns can show you where to focus your study time.

My Skills Gap Tracker

After reviewing your practice test, record the areas that need additional work.

Skill or Topic	Strong	Needs Practice	Needs More Help
Reading comprehension	☐	☐	☐
Vocabulary in context	☐	☐	☐
Grammar and writing conventions	☐	☐	☐
Using evidence and interpreting information	☐	☐	☐
Algebra	☐	☐	☐
Geometry	☐	☐	☐
Functions and equations	☐	☐	☐
Data, statistics, and percentages	☐	☐	☐
Problem solving	☐	☐	☐
Other: _____	☐	☐	☐

Look for the Reason

When you miss a question, ask why:

- ☐ I didn't know the concept.
- ☐ I misread the question.
- ☐ I made a calculation error.
- ☐ I rushed.
- ☐ I changed a correct answer.
- ☐ I didn't understand the vocabulary.
- ☐ Other: _____

Prepare Today

Circle or highlight your **three highest-priority skill gaps**.

Those become the starting point for your test-preparation plan—not everything at once.

My Test-Prep Error Log

An error log helps you turn missed questions into useful information. The goal is not to collect mistakes; it is to learn from them so you are less likely to repeat them.

After each practice session or practice test, record the questions that gave you difficulty.

Date	Skill or Topic	Why I Missed It	What I Need to Review	Retested?
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐

Review Before You Move On

For each missed question:

1. Identify the skill being tested.
2. Determine **why** you missed it.
3. Review or relearn the concept.
4. Practice that skill again.
5. Retest yourself later to see whether your understanding improved.

Remember: Getting a question wrong during practice isn't failure. Practice is where you discover what still needs work.

Watch for Patterns

After several study sessions, review your Error Log.

If the same skill or type of mistake keeps appearing, that is a signal to give that area more attention. If you've reviewed a concept several times and still don't understand it, that may also be a good indication that you need additional instruction or tutoring.

Prepare Today

Start your Error Log with your most recent practice assessment. Don't try to fix everything at once.

Find the pattern. Strengthen the skill. Then measure your progress.

Build Your Weekly Test-Prep Plan

Now that you know **what** needs work, the next step is deciding **when** you'll work on it.

You don't need to study everything every day. A focused plan can help you use your time more effectively and prevent test preparation from becoming overwhelming.

When possible, work on your **most challenging or highest-priority skills when you're mentally fresh**. Save lighter review for later.

My Weekly Test-Prep Planner

Day	Skill or Topic	What I'll Practice	Time Planned	Completed
Monday	_____	_____	_____	☐
Tuesday	_____	_____	_____	☐
Wednesday	_____	_____	_____	☐
Thursday	_____	_____	_____	☐
Friday	_____	_____	_____	☐
Saturday	_____	_____	_____	☐
Sunday	_____	_____	_____	☐

Build a Routine That Works for You

Your schedule should fit your actual life. Consider schoolwork, activities, athletics, work, family responsibilities, church, and rest when planning your study time.

A strong routine might include:

- Focused practice on one or two skills
- Reviewing your Error Log
- Practicing previously missed concepts
- Completing timed practice periodically
- Taking breaks when needed
- Protecting time for sleep and regular school responsibilities

Prepare Today

Choose the days and times you can **realistically** dedicate to test preparation this week.

Consistency matters more than creating a schedule you cannot maintain.

Your plan should work for your life—not compete with it.

Practice-Test Reflection & Measuring Progress

Practice tests are most valuable when you use them to measure more than a score.

After each practice test, take a few minutes to compare your results with your previous work. Look for improvement, repeated challenges, and areas that need a different approach.

My Practice-Test Reflection

Test or assessment: _____

Date: _____

Overall score: _____

My previous score: _____

My score changed by: _____

Skills that improved:

Skills that still need attention:

Mistakes I noticed repeating:

One thing I will do differently before my next practice test:

Measure More Than the Number

Progress can look like:

- Answering more questions correctly
- Making fewer careless mistakes
- Understanding concepts that were previously difficult
- Managing your time better
- Recognizing question types more quickly
- Feeling more confident with the material

A score is useful information, but it is **not the only evidence that you are improving.**

Prepare Today

Compare your most recent results with your baseline.

Ask yourself:

What improved? What still needs work? What should I focus on next?

Then update your Skills Gap Tracker and Weekly Test-Prep Planner based on what you learned.

Know Which Test You're Preparing For

Not every standardized test serves the same purpose. Understanding the role of each assessment can help you prepare intentionally and avoid overlooking an important opportunity.

PSAT 8/9

Designed for students in eighth and ninth grades, the PSAT 8/9 provides an early measure of college and career readiness and can help identify academic strengths and skills that may need additional development.

PSAT 10

Designed for students in 10th grade, the PSAT 10 can help measure academic progress and identify skills to strengthen. **The PSAT 10 does not qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship Program.**

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) measures the same general skills as other assessments in the SAT Suite, but it has an additional important purpose. For eligible students who take it during the appropriate year of high school, it serves as the qualifying assessment for entry into the **National Merit Scholarship Program**.

SAT

The SAT is a college admission assessment measuring Reading and Writing and Math skills. Testing requirements vary, so students should verify the current policies of colleges, universities, scholarship programs, and other opportunities they are considering.

ACT

The ACT is a college admission assessment used by many colleges, universities, scholarship programs, and other organizations. Students should verify current testing requirements and scholarship considerations for the opportunities they are pursuing.

Planning With Purpose — Why Junior Year Matters

For students following a traditional four-year high school path, **junior-year PSAT/NMSQT testing deserves special attention**. It is not simply another practice test—it can serve as the qualifying assessment for entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit uses an **NMSC Selection Index**, calculated from PSAT/NMSQT scores, as part of its initial screening process. Meeting an initial qualifying level does **not** automatically mean a student will receive a scholarship. Eligibility requirements, recognition levels, advancement requirements, and scholarship opportunities should always be verified with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Test-Date & Deadline Tracker

Strong test preparation includes knowing **when** important testing decisions need to be made. Registration deadlines, testing dates, fees, score-reporting procedures, and testing policies can change, so keep your information current.

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline	My Registration Status	Notes
_____	_____	_____	☐ Complete	_____
_____	_____	_____	☐ Complete	_____
_____	_____	_____	☐ Complete	_____
_____	_____	_____	☐ Complete	_____

Keep the Bigger Picture in View

When choosing a testing date, consider:

- Application and scholarship deadlines
- How much preparation time you need
- School and extracurricular commitments
- Whether you may want an opportunity to test again
- When scores may be needed by colleges, programs, or scholarship providers

Verify Before You Act

Test dates, registration deadlines, fees, testing policies, score-reporting procedures, and college testing requirements may change. Always verify current information directly with the official testing organization and the colleges, programs, or scholarship providers you are considering before registering or making testing decisions and current PSAT, SAT, and National Merit information through College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Prepare Today

Identify the official source for the test you're considering and record the next important date or deadline in your calendar. Ask your school counselor which PSAT assessments your school offers, when they are administered, how registration is handled, and what you should do now to prepare for the assessment appropriate to your grade level. **Plan early so a missed deadline doesn't become a missed opportunity.**

Free & Official Test-Preparation Resources

Before paying for a test-preparation program, tutoring package, or subscription, explore the **free resources available directly from the organizations responsible for the tests.**

Official resources can help students become familiar with test formats, question types, practice tools, and current testing information.

Start With Official Resources

For the **SAT**, begin with the College Board and its official SAT preparation resources.

For the **ACT**, begin with ACT and its official preparation resources.

Your school counselor may also be able to help you locate:

- School-sponsored test-preparation opportunities
- Practice assessments
- Tutoring or academic-support programs
- Test-preparation workshops
- Information about testing opportunities available through your school
- Additional free resources available to students

Before You Spend Money

A paid program may be helpful for some students but cost alone does not determine what kind of support a student needs.

Use the tools in this Lagniappe first:

Baseline Assessment → Skills Gap Tracker → Error Log → Weekly Plan → Practice → Measure Progress

Then ask:

Am I improving with the resources I already have?

Is there a particular skill I still don't understand?

Would targeted help in that area be more useful than purchasing an entire program?

Do I need instruction, accountability, additional practice—or simply more time and consistency?

The answers can help your family make a more informed decision about whether additional support is necessary.

Verify Before You Act

Testing resources, formats, policies, registration procedures, and available preparation tools may change. Use the official testing organization's website to verify current information and available resources.

A Preparation With Purpose™ Reminder

The goal isn't to avoid spending money when a student truly needs additional help.
The goal is to understand the need before spending the money.

Start with what is available.
Identify what you need.
Use your resources wisely.
Invest in additional support when it has a clear purpose.

My Test-Preparation Action Plan

You now have a system for approaching test preparation with purpose.

You know how to establish a baseline, identify skill gaps, learn from mistakes, create a realistic study routine, measure progress, track important dates, and locate free resources before deciding whether additional support is necessary.

Now bring those pieces together.

My Test-Preparation Action Plan

The test I am preparing for:

My current goal:

My three highest-priority skills are:

1.

2.

3.

The free or official resources I will use:

My regular preparation days/times:

My next practice test date:

My next important testing deadline:

The person I can ask for help or guidance:

If I am not making progress, my next step will be:

For Families

Test preparation does not have to begin with an expensive program.

Begin by helping your student understand where they are, what they need, and what kind of support will help them move forward. Review progress together and adjust the plan when necessary.

If additional tutoring or preparation becomes appropriate, you will be making that investment with a clearer understanding of what your student actually needs.

Keep Moving Forward Prepared *Positioned*Purposed * Promised

You do not have to master everything today.

Identify the need.

Make the plan.

Practice consistently.

Learn from your mistakes.

Measure your progress.

Adjust when necessary.

Then keep moving forward. Preparation isn't about predicting every question you'll encounter. It's about building the skills, habits, and confidence to face the test prepared.

Continue Your Journey With Preparation With Purpose™

This resource is one part of a larger collection created to help students and families prepare for high school, college, career, and life with greater confidence, information, and purpose.

Inside the Complete Academic and Career Resource Guide

The **Student Edition** takes students through eight Foundations designed to help them explore who they are, understand their options, make informed decisions, and prepare for what comes next.

Foundation 1 — Purpose, Mindset & Vision

Build a strong foundation for growth, confidence, and purposeful decision-making.

Foundation 2 — Discovering Your Purpose

Explore interests, strengths, values, and the possibilities they may reveal.

Foundation 3 — Exploring Possibilities

Discover academic, career, college, military, trade, entrepreneurial, and other pathways.

Foundation 4 — Planning with Purpose

Turn possibilities into practical plans for high school and beyond.

Foundation 5 — Character, Communication & Life Skills

Strengthen the personal skills and habits that support success in every pathway.

Foundation 6 — Preparing for the Path Ahead

Learn how to prepare academically, financially, and personally for future opportunities.

Foundation 7 — Stepping into Opportunities

Put preparation into action through scholarships, applications, experiences, and opportunities.

Foundation 8 — Launch with Purpose

Prepare to move forward with confidence while continuing to grow, adjust, and pursue your goals.

The complete Student Edition also includes **grade-level guidance for Grades 9–12** and **Test Preparation With Purpose**, a practical system for building a smarter test-preparation plan.

And There's Support for Parents, Too

The **Parent Edition** helps families navigate the journey alongside their students with guidance for academic planning, pathway exploration, character and life skills, preparing together, launching with confidence, and supporting student-athletes.

Every Family Deserves a Plan. PREPARED • POSITIONED • PURPOSED • PROMISED
Preparation With Purpose™

Academic and Career Resources for Students & Families



PREPARATION WITH PURPOSE™

Your Journey Doesn't Stop Here.

Your complimentary Grade-Level Progress Guide is one resource designed to help you prepare for what comes next.

Continue your journey with Preparation With Purpose™ digital resources designed to help students and families prepare academically, explore future pathways, and make informed decisions throughout the high school years.

EXPLORE THE PREPARATION WITH PURPOSE™ DIGITAL COLLECTION



ACADEMIC AND
CAREER RESOURCE
GUIDE
Student Edition



ACADEMIC AND
CAREER RESOURCE
GUIDE
Parent Edition



STUDENT-ATHLETE
ADVANTAGE
*Academic & Athletic
Resource Guide*



SCHOLARSHIP
RESEARCH
Lagniappe

PREPARE • POSITION • PURPOSE • PROMISE

Every Family Deserves a Plan.