

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT

- **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from grades 5 and 6 separately and grades 7 and 8 combined, OR ages 10, 11, 12 and 13 respectively by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the VOCABULARY District Contest from each school. Two students from grades 5 and 6 and two students from combined grades 7 and 8 advance to State.
- **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 students must compete in each contest in order for the top two students from each group to advance to State (See page 8 for complete rules.)
- **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** The Vocabulary Contest is similar to a SAT preparation course. Test items are very similar in construction and content to those that might be found on a SAT verbal test. The vocabulary list for the current year consists of 300 words, and is found on the following pages of the *Academic Handbook*. Although each test item will be composed using at least one of these words, a well-read student who has a broad, cumulative vocabulary will perform best in this contest, for many of the words used within the tests are not used in everyday middle school language. The contest contains 30 items—approximately 13 sentence completion, 13 analogies, and 9 questions over a reading passage that is from 400 to 700 words in length. Test time is 30 minutes.
- **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. (Substitutes taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time at roll call.) Answer sheets will be distributed to contestants first,
- followed by contestant ID-labeled tests distributed by student name. Contestants will be instructed to write their grade levels and their contestant ID numbers in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. Contestants must not open the test until the start signal is given. No alarm watches or other devices that emit sound are allowed in the contest room. Disqualification will result if such device makes any sound while placed in any portion of the room.
- **TIME ALOTTED.** Contestants will have 30 minutes beginning at the start signal. A 5-minute left time warning may be given, but contestants should be responsible for their own time management. Contestants will remain quietly in their seats until the time has expired.
- **MARKING ANSWERS.** Contestants will use a dark ink pen or pencil to print CAPITAL letter answers in the blanks provided on the test. Any marking in the answer space will constitute an attempt.
- **SCORING.** Add 5 points for each correct answer. Subtract 2 points for each incorrect answer, or for each answer that was attempted, marked through or erased, and did not result in a correct answer. **No points** are added or deducted for skipped or unanswered test items. • Mark-outs are acceptable, as long as a correct answer is written beside the mark-out. If an answer is marked out and no correct answer is written in the answer space, 2 points deducted. Erasures are permitted. Any erased correct answer that can still be seen is counted correct. An erased answer that is not correct and does not have a correct answer written over or beside it constitutes an incorrect answer, whereby 2 points are deducted.
- **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** See page 14.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COACHES / CONTEST DIRECTORS

- **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the “Rules for ALL Participants” section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the “Instructions to the Contestant” and in the “Checklist for Contest Directors” and the “Checklist for Graders.” Preparation for the Vocabulary Contest should include researching definitions in the *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition*. Provide students with multiple opportunities to take practice tests from SAT preparation books, such as Barron’s and Gruber’s. Test taking strategies for SAT and PSAT type tests are also beneficial. Practice tests from previous year’s contests are available on the PSIA Study Materials Order Forms.
- **PERSONNEL NEEDED FOR CONTEST.**
 1. **Contest Director.** *May be a knowledgeable coach of contestants in the contest.*
 2. **Assistant Directors.** *Two knowledgeable coaches from different schools other than director’s.*
 3. **Graders.** *Director and assistant directors also serve as graders. To expedite the grading process, provide at least two graders for every 15 papers.*

PSIA Vocabulary Contest

Contestant Answer Sheet

CONTESTANT ID#: _____

GRADE LEVEL: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the PRINTED CAPITAL letter of each answer choice (A, B, C, or D) in the blank corresponding to the test item number. For True/False items, place a T or F, or "True" or "False" in the blank provided. **SCORING:** +5 for each correct answer; -2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction is taken for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction ONLY if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

1. _____

16. _____

2. _____

17. _____

3. _____

18. _____

4. _____

19. _____

5. _____

20. _____

6. _____

21. _____

7. _____

22. _____

8. _____

23. _____

9. _____

24. _____

10. _____

25. _____

11. _____

26. _____

Score: Initials

12. _____

27. _____

Grader 1: _____

13. _____

28. _____

Grader 2: _____

14. _____

29. _____

Grader 3: _____

15. _____

30. _____

SCORE: _____

Contest Director ONLY: Match school/student name AFTER tests are scored: _____