

## **SSAT Optional Explanation**

### **Why is the SSAT optional?**

The SSAT is optional at Mid-Pacific because we believe in evaluating applicants by focusing on more than just test scores. We consider:

- Student academic achievement
- Intellectual curiosity
- Character
- Potential growth in academic, social and emotional development
- Talents, hobbies and passions
- Capacity for positive relationships with peers and adults
- Individual expression and open mindedness

These attributes directly align with Mid-Pacific's [Learner Profile](#) and demonstrate the potential for each applicant in achieving Learner Profile goals. It is our hope that by making the SSAT optional, it also lowers the stress of test-taking and preparation, and decreases the financial burden of the application process.

### **Are applicants who send in test scores at an advantage in the Admissions process?**

No. Mid-Pacific Admissions officers and faculty reviewers consider the applicant's entire application during the Admissions review process, and do not favor applicants with test scores. An applicant will not be penalized for opting out of the SSAT or for deciding to share scores.