**Junior PSAT Lesson**

\*\*Please share the following information with your juniors about why they should consider taking the PSAT exam.

\*\*Please take a look at the PSAT practice test, and consider doing a couple of the questions with the students if time allows.

Why Juniors should take the PSAT exam:

1. Student’s PSAT score could potentially qualify them for consideration in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

This scholarship competition awards approximately 8,200 scholarships annually. The selection process starts with the choosing of National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and Commended Scholars. Cutoffs vary from state to state but typically Semi-Finalists score in the top one percent of students in their state and Commended Scholars between the top one to four percent. Most of the approximately 16,000 Semi-Finalists become Finalists, and half of those ultimately receive National Merit Scholarships.
2. Students will receive feedback on their strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. Students can then focus preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
3. Students can see how their performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
4. It is good practice for the SAT.
	1. The PSAT is closely aligned to the SAT and the PSAT is meant to predict how student would perform on the SAT exam. Students could also cross reference their predicted SAT score to see how they would possibly do on an ACT exam.
		1. The ACT and SAT are the two types of college entrance exams. Students who are looking to attend a 4 year college/university, will need to complete at least one of these exams, so any and all practice is strongly encouraged.
5. Students can receive information from colleges when they check "yes" to Student Search Service.

**My College QuickStart**
All students who take the PSAT/NMSQT receive access to *My College QuickStart* - an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit. This useful tool incorporates the responses that you provided when you took the test.

Student information is presented in four main parts:

* My Online Score Report - an enhanced score report that allows you to review each test question, your answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations.
* My SAT Study Plan - a customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.
* My College Matches - a starter list of colleges based on your state and indicated choice of major.
* My Major and Career Matches - major and career matches that are compatible with your general interests and personality type.

*My College QuickStart*is available using the access code printed on your score report, and it can be utilized throughout high school. Score reports are distributed after December.

Information taken from: <http://www.schoolguides.com/reasons_to_take_the_psat.html>

This year the PSAT exam will be given Wednesday, October 16th. This is an optional test, so students are responsible for payment of the test. Test costs $15. Look for more information coming soon in the announcements and a sign up sheet in Student Services soon.

If you have any questions, or would like some more information, see your School Counselor:

* A-G – Mr. Hehn
* H-O – Mr. Nygaard
* P-Z – Mrs. Knuppe

Students can access full PSAT practice tests at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice/full-length-practice-test>