

JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

September 2011, Tiffani Williams, Counselor

I hope your school year is going great! I would like to thank you for your cooperation and patience during balancing and changing of classes. The first trimester is quickly approaching a midpoint. Progress reports will be coming home soon. The end of the first trimester is November 4th and at that time your grades will be final and posted to your transcript. Please review your transcript and keep in mind that these grades are permanent. In the fall of your senior year, you will select colleges and universities to receive your transcript.

Juniors that are interested in taking the PSAT, which is a National Merit qualifying test and required for Governor's Scholars program may begin signing up on September 26th in the counseling office. The cost is \$15.00 cash. **The test will be given on October 12th.**

Free online ACT test prep course with practice test:

1. Go to www.tcaprep.com/studyguide
2. Enter school code: 1628136319
3. Click on "Click Here" if a login screen is not visible
4. Username- first 2 letters of first name, middle initial, full last name (all lowercase)
5. Password: panther

Below are the following ACT Testing dates for 2011-2012. Students can register online at www.actstudent.org or stop by counseling office to pick up a packet.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	August 13 – 26, 2011
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

Test Prep Resources *(a suggested list that is not all inclusive)*

Take a class (fee attached) *This list is not all inclusive and no facility is recommended over another—all courses are at the expense of the family*

- Educational Resources www.ertutor.com 426-8002
Offers a 3 hour prep course the Saturday before any ACT exam (\$85.00)
- Jewish Family and Career Services www.ifcslouisville.org 452-6341
8 week classes for \$170.00
- Club Z Tutoring www.clubztutoring.com 891-0092
Individual and group classes available
- Louisville Test Prep www.ltprep.com 648-4677

Visit websites for test tips:

- Louisville Free Public Library—need a library card www.lfpl.org
- ACT website www.actstudent.org/testprep/tips/index.html
- www.testinfo.net/act/act-tips.htm
- <http://www.petersons.com/college-search/free-act-practice-test.aspx>
- <http://www.dummies.com/how-to/education-languages/test-prep.html>
- <http://www.acttestquestions.com/>
- <http://www.studytechniques.org/act.html>

Purchase a Test Prep Book

- Visit any local bookstore and purchase a workbook or CD-ROM

College Planning Goals for 11th Grade

from College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School for You

by Steven Antonoff and Marie Friedemann

- Relax! College searching can be fun and stress-free if you plan well and approach the process like a project rather than a chore.
- Working on study skills and time management will really help you balance the workload in college.
- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Attend a college fair if there is one in your area.
- Complete the College Characteristics worksheet to get a sense of what is important to you in a college or university.
- Think about your interests and how they may translate into career options or possible fields of study in college. Consider pursuing some of those options through summer employment, volunteer work, or internships.
- Develop/continue a reading plan that includes newspapers, magazines, and books.
- Use the library, computer, and internet resources to investigate colleges and to keep in touch with friends who have graduated so you can hear about their experiences.
- Work to enhance your reading and writing abilities and vocabulary proficiency.
 - *In addition to reading, try building your vocabulary on websites like www.number2.com or www.collegeboard.com.*
- Keep your grades up. Keep copies of your best writing.
- Plan your senior year schedule with care. Most colleges will look closely at the breadth and depth of your senior year schedule. Push yourself, but know your limits.
- Continue a limited number of extracurricular involvements in which you might want to assume leadership roles.
- Make sure you meet individually with your guidance/college counselor during the winter and/or spring to discuss your college search.
- Involve your parents in your college search as much as possible. Have a discussion with them about finances and any assistance they can give towards possible college expenses. Financial resources may be a major factor in deciding your college list!

"Myth 13: SAT scores are the most important thing: good ones will get you in the good college and poor ones will keep you out.

Wrong. Most important are good grades in a tough program."*

*Quote from: *Twenty Myths That Can Jinx Your College Choice* by Loren Pope

The Parent Perspective PSAT/NMSQT®

2011

Date: October 12, 2011

Location: PRP High School - Seminar Rm.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$ 15.00

For more information, contact: Tiffani Williams

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should students take the PSAT/NMSQT®?

The PSAT/NMSQT is the best preparation for the SAT®. Students who take the test in 11th grade and meet other program entry requirements may enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs.

All students who take the PSAT/NMSQT will receive an official score report. They will receive scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills and will see how their scores compare to those of other students across the country. Students will be able to see which answers they got right or wrong. They will also receive information about how they performed on specific academic skills.

Students who take the test will receive free access to My College QuickStart™, an online college and career planning tool that contains an online PSAT/NMSQT Score Report; a customized My SAT Study Plan™; a personality test; and personalized lists of colleges, majors and careers. For more information, visit www.collegeboard.org/quickstart.

Other special opportunities for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade include the National Hispanic Recognition Program. For more information, see your student's counselor or visit www.collegeboard.org.

2. Who should take the PSAT/NMSQT?

Typically, students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 11 of high school. It is also beneficial for younger students to take the test to get a head start on improving academic skills needed for success in college and beyond. Last year, more than half of all test-takers were in grade 10 or younger.

3. What should be done to prepare for this test?

Classroom learning is the basis for test questions, so the best way students can prepare is by taking rigorous courses and becoming familiar with the test and its format. Students should review the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*, which is full of useful information, including a full-length practice test. The *Guide* and the practice test will help students understand all the directions and be familiar with the types of questions that will be asked.

4. If students don't do well on this test, will it hurt their chances of getting into college?

Absolutely not. If anything, the PSAT/NMSQT will improve their chances, since it provides personalized information on the types of skills that the student needs to improve to prepare for the SAT and college. PSAT/NMSQT scores are not sent to colleges.

5. How many times may a student take this test?

Only once a year, but there is no limit to how many years a student may participate. It is important that 11th-grade students take the test to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions, as well as to prepare for the SAT.

6. What is Student Search Service®, and should students check "Yes"?

When students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they are asked if they would like to participate in the College Board's Student Search Service®, a free service that provides names of students to certified educational organizations. If students choose to participate, they allow colleges, universities, scholarship programs and educational opportunity organizations to send information about the educational and financial aid opportunities they offer. Student information is strictly monitored and secure, and individual PSAT/NMSQT test scores are never shared with any outside entity.

7. When may we expect to see the results from the PSAT/NMSQT?

Schools will receive score reports in December and will notify students regarding when, where and how to get their individual reports. Schools also receive an extra copy for the student's file.

8. What else should students be doing to have college as an option after graduation?

Refer to the calendar on the back of this flyer.

At www.collegeboard.org, you'll find more information about the PSAT/NMSQT, My College QuickStart, and planning and paying for college, as well as information on other College Board programs, such as the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program®.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
cosponsored by

 

