

Poolesville High School
17501 Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland 20837-2006
301-972-7900

October 2009



Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 7:25 a.m., the College Board's 2009 version of the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered at Poolesville High School for students in grades 9, 10, and 11.

Students in **grade 9** have **two options** that day: (1) take a practice PSAT, offered free of charge, or (2) take the official PSAT, if your child has already completed Geometry. If interested in option two, please, have your child pick up and submit a registration form, along with a \$13.00 check payable to PHS, to Mrs. Cathy Adams in the Career Center, no later than October 9, 2009.

All students in grade 10 are required to take the PSAT which is offered free of charge. This is part of a countywide initiative and 100% participation is expected that day.

Students in **grade 11** are **strongly encouraged** to take the PSAT/NMSQT. They must pick up and submit a registration form, along with a \$13.00 check payable to PHS, to Mrs. Cathy Adams in the Career Center, no later than October 9, 2009. Their test results are extremely important because they may qualify your child for valuable National Merit Scholarships, potentially worth thousands of dollars.

This administration of the PSAT is a part of the school system's commitment to hold high expectations for all of our students. The PSAT serves as an early measure of a student's readiness for college level work. Results can be used to identify students needing to be moved into more rigorous classes. The test administration also provides a way for your child to become familiar with this important test earlier in their high school career. Additionally, test results offer additional data for instructional planning and academic support.

Students are encouraged to get plenty of rest the night before the test to ensure test readiness. Please be sure your student comes prepared for the test with two No. 2 pencils and a calculator. All students taking the actual PSAT will receive a 2009 Official Student Guide to the PSAT. This guide, which contains a practice section and an answer key, is very helpful in preparing for the test. Additional practice tests and tips for students can be found at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students> under "Prepare & Study for SAT/PSAT& ACT's – Free TCA Online Help."

Testing will be followed by an abbreviated class schedule, beginning with lunch at 10:50 a.m. and continuing with periods 5 through 7 and extended day. Buses will run at their regularly scheduled times. Only **12th grade students** have the option of a **delayed opening** that morning and they are encouraged to work on their college applications. **All students in grades 9 and 10 are required to be in school by 7:20 a.m. and participate in PSAT testing as well as students in grade 11 who have registered and paid for the PSAT.** A supervised study hall is available in the morning for all 11th and 12th graders not involved in testing.

It is extremely important that PHS staff and families continue to work together to reinforce each student's participation. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the administrative team at (301) 972-7900.

Sincerely,

Deena Levine
Principal

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