

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Junior or Sophomore Student:

There is an **optional test** in October available to WAHS juniors, and new this year, to sophomores, too. On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, juniors and sophomores from West Aurora High School *can elect* to take the PSAT/NMSQT (a preliminary exam for the SAT), *during the regular school day*, periods 1-5.

Space for this exam is LIMITED. Once we reach our seating limit, you will be placed on a waitlist. Students interested in taking the PSAT/NMSQT **must register between August 16 -September 11***, online, at www.totalregistration.net/PSAT/140185. ***(If a student is requesting testing accommodations, please be aware that the deadline for requesting accommodations is August 24.)**

Juniors and sophomores planning to attend a four-year university or college immediately after high school might opt to take the PSAT/NMSQT. Juniors and sophomores should consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT test for the following reasons:

- to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship (only applicable to JUNIORS; sophomores cannot qualify for National Merit. Please visit www.nationalmerit.org for more information.)
- to assess verbal and math skills as they relate to college
- to compare skills to other college bound juniors (Nationally)
- to participate in the Student Search Service to obtain information from different colleges and universities
- to become familiar with taking a college entrance exam similar to the SAT and /or ACT*; some colleges require an SAT or ACT score for course placements, which may include dual credit courses

**If your primary reason for wanting to take the PSAT/NMSQT is to be exposed to practice for the SAT or ACT, please be aware that there are other options available, such as using the free online Khan Academy through College Board or ACT Academy to practice skills and take full length practice tests, or by taking the WAHS SAT Boot Camp that is offered in January for WAHS juniors (not sophomores). More information regarding the boot camp will be available in late October.*

The PSAT/NMSQT is \$20 and can be paid with a credit card. Payment will be completed online. Those who qualify for free/reduced lunch will have their fee waived. **Again, space is limited, so sign up early!**

Students will receive additional test day information via email, at a later date.

If you have any questions, please email me at lmunsonrodriguez@sd129.org

Sincerely,

Laurie Munson-Rodriguez
WAHS Assessment Coordinator