

Cohasset Middle-High School

OCTOBER 18 — OCTOBER 24, 2015

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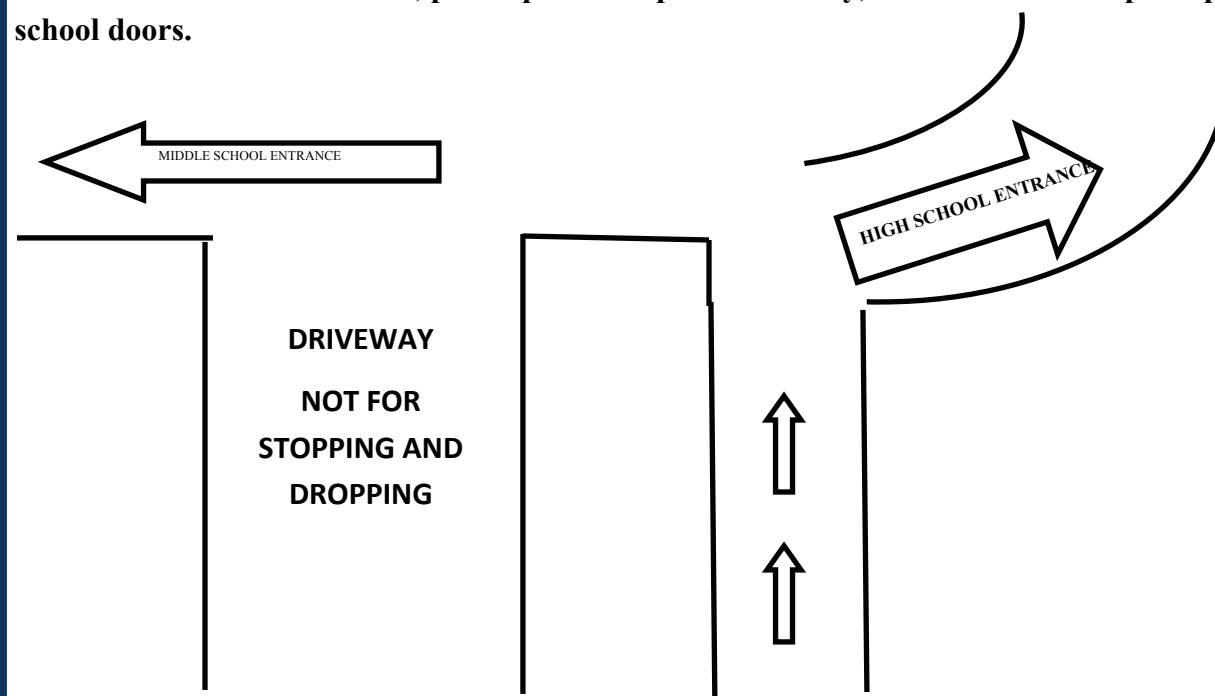
**Picture
Retakes**

from the desk of Carolyn Connolly...

Calendar updates: the MS Halloween Dance on the PSO calendar for 10/23 will not be held. MS Students will have a black/orange spirit day on 10/30. Please check the website calendars for weekly updates and adjustments as needed and rely on it as the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Juniors and Sophomores took “the new” PSAT this past Wednesday during school. A follow-up assembly for juniors took place Thursday, during which guidance counselors review the changes in the current and new SAT formats, and compared them alongside the ACT as well. Students were able to listen to the pros and cons of each standardized test and learn more about which schools may expect students to have taken both. Most importantly, students got to ask questions about testing in general. My thanks to Mrs. Struzziery and Mr. McGowan for delivering this information so clearly. I am including the comparison chart in the body of this newsletter for your review.

PLEASE ASSIST ME with maintaining a safe and efficient drop off and pick up of students at CMHS. For your review, when dropping students at the main/high school entrance, please proceed up the driveway and TO THE RIGHT, so that you pull through the fire circle. If you are dropping students at the middle school entrance, please proceed up the driveway, TURN LEFT and pull up to the middle school doors.





CLASS OF 2016

IMPORTANT YEARBOOK INFORMATION ON COHASSET PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEBSITE

Please go to Cohasset Public Schools website and select **Cohasset High School** under the **Select a School Tab**. Click on the **Students Tab** and select **Yearbook**. Here you will find documents regarding Yearbook Deadlines, Yearbook Grid, Senior Parent Dedication and Community Lifetouch Photo Website.

Co-Curricular Activities

I am including below the list of co-curricular activities which are currently offered at CMHS. This list is reflective of those co-curricular appointments for which teachers apply and are appointed annually. This is inclusive of all appointments identified and provided for in the CTA agreement (contract) and which therefore remain unaffected. I am aware of, and appreciate, the concern around some activities not running at this time and hope we are able to augment the offerings as the year progresses. To learn more about any of the activities listed below, please reference the MS or HS web page under “Students” drop-down menus and select clubs and activities. Advisors are listed there and you can contact them with any questions that you have.

| Middle School | High School |
|---|--|
| Yearbook Student Council Drama Workshop | Art Publication Debate Team Drama Workshop GSA Math League National Honor Society School Newspaper Jazz Ensemble Student Council Yearbook Pep Bank Peer Leaders |



We will be collecting Box Tops for Education this year. So please stop by the main office to drop off any Box Tops you may have. Our next deadline is November 7th. Thank you.



Comparing the SAT (Current and Redesigned) to the ACT

A guide from Summit Educational Group

When it is released in 2016, the new SAT will be a significant change from the current test. Also, the redesign will affect how we determine whether a student is better-suited for the SAT or ACT. Below is a broad comparison of the new SAT to the current SAT and the ACT.

| | Current SAT | New SAT (Spring 2016) | ACT |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Description | The new SAT will require similar skills and test similar content to that of the ACT and current SAT. Many of the changes to the new SAT's format will make it look a lot like the ACT. Among the biggest changes to the SAT are an emphasis on real-world problems, a new scoring system, and an overhaul of the essay section. Overall, the redesigned SAT will place a bigger emphasis on problem-solving and understanding context. Whereas the new SAT will focus on critical thinking, the ACT will require more speed. | | |
| Format & Length | 10 short sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Critical Reading; 3 Mathematics; 3 Writing (including Essay); 1 experimental (not scored) Questions have 3 answer choices Total testing time: 3 hours, 45 minutes | 5 long sections (comprising 3 "tests" and an optional essay): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing & Language; Reading; 2 Math; Essay Questions have 4 answer choices Total testing time: 3 hours (without optional essay) | 5 long sections (comprising 4 "tests" and an optional essay): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English; Mathematics; Reading; Science; Writing (optional essay) Most questions have 4 answer choices (Math has 5) Total testing time: 2 hours, 55 minutes (without optional essay) |
| Scoring | Combined score: 600-2400 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Reading: 200-800; Math: 200-800; Writing: 200-800 Writing score comprised of Multiple Choice and Essay subscores. ¼-point deduction for incorrect answers | Combined score: 400-1600 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800; Math: 200-800 Essay score reported separately "Cross-Test Scores" report performance on Science and History/Social Studies across entire test No deduction for incorrect answers | Composite score: 1-36 (average of 4 tests) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English: 1-35; Math: 1-35; Reading: 1-35; Science: 1-35 Writing score not factored into Composite score Combined English/Writing score provided separately: 1-35 No deduction for incorrect answers |
| Writing/English | Identify and correct errors in single sentences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standard English grammar and usage punctuation not tested Limited and predictable set of errors | Revise and edit a piece of writing for logical structure, and effective rhetoric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standard English grammar and usage punctuation logical structure effective rhetoric includes informational graphics | Revise and edit a piece of writing for logical structure, and effective rhetoric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standard English grammar and usage punctuation logical structure effective rhetoric commonly confused words |
| Math | Arithmetic, Algebra I and II, Geometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply core math skills to solve mostly non-standard, "tricky" problems formulas provided 10 Grid-In questions (no answer choices) | Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strong emphasis on Algebra Calculator prohibited on one section 13 Grid-In questions (no answer choices) | Pre-Algebra through basic Trigonometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> math tested in straightforward manner extensive range of concepts tested emphasis on word problems formulas not provided |
| Reading | Vocabulary-based sentence completions Total of 7 short and long reading passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> many Inference, tone, purpose questions questions follow order of passage | Vocabulary de-emphasized 4 long passages and 1 paired passage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 passages include diagrams/charts 1 passage from "Great Global Conversation" | 4 long passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> very little emphasis on vocabulary straightforward questions that require close reading of passage order of questions is random less time per question |
| Science | The current SAT does not have a Science section. | The new SAT does not have stand-alone Science section, but Science questions will be included throughout the Math, Reading, and Writing & Language tests. | 40 questions distributed over 7 passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emphasis on charts, diagrams, etc. Science is a reasoning test—rarely requires prior science knowledge |
| Essay | 25 minutes, required, always first section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> broad theme can be approached formulaically or creatively | 50 minutes, optional, always last section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyze a passage and evaluate author's reasoning and rhetoric students' opinions discouraged Essay is scored on 2-8 scale on three traits (Reading, Analysis, and Writing) | Optional, always the last test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyze multiple viewpoints on a contemporary issue demands a more structured response optional, but required by most schools |



Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

| SAT Date | Subject Tests Available | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline (fee required) |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| November 7 | Yes | October 9 | October 27 |
| December 5 | Yes | November 5 | November 23 |
| January 23 | Yes | December 28 | January 12 |
| March 5 | No | February 5 | February 23 |
| May 7 | Yes | April 8 | April 26 |
| June 4 | Yes | May 5 | May 25 |

*March 5th is the start of the redesigned SAT. Additional details and information will be communicated in the coming weeks.

| ACT Test Date | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline (fee required) |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| December 12 | November 6 | November 20 |
| February 6 | January 8 | January 15 |
| April 9 | March 4 | March 18 |
| June 11 | May 6 | May 20 |

*Students who have learning disabilities and wish to apply for extended time on either test should see their counselor right away

Do you need help with financial planning for college?

Check out www.mefa.org and attend an upcoming workshop.

October 22nd, Norwell High School, 7:00 p.m.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON
PICTURE RETAKE DAY
THERE HAS BEEN A DATE CHANGE**

Picture Retakes have been rescheduled to MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015.

Hidden in Plain Sight

October 22nd at 7:00 pm

**Willcutt Commons
91 Sohier St.**



Get Smart!

Guide for parents to identify the early warning signs of substance misuse!

The “Hidden in Plain Sight” initiative helps parents spot signs of at-risk behaviors. The initiative uses an educational display of a teenager’s bedroom to test parent’s knowledge of common household items that can be substance abuse warning signs. The program is designed to encourage honest and candid discussion of the topics of underage drinking and substance abuse.



The Paul Pratt Memorial Library's Homework Center (HC) will be open Tuesday evenings
Beginning October 6th from
5:30-7:00

The Homework Center offers tutoring services to Cohasset students seeking help with studies and homework. Tutors are recruited from the National Honor Society in fulfillment of community service hours. Students from CMHS are invited to attend as well as Deerhill students.

Students will sign in upon arrival and are required to have a parent come into the library at the end of the session. Parents are also required to complete a parental form and emergency contact information. Pizza and beverages are also provided. We look forward to meeting and serving the students of Cohasset!

Malorie Dwyer – Homework Center Coordinator
Eileen Norton – National Honor Society Coordinator
Brigid Lengyel – Young Adult and Reference Librarian, Paul Pratt Memorial Library
Jackie Rafferty, Library Director

The Homework Center is generously funded by the Friends of the Cohasset Library. If you would like to make a contribution toward HW center expenses or refreshments please contact us at:

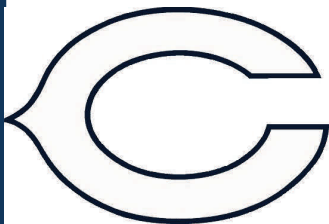
Friends of Cohasset Library

35 Ripley Road

Cohasset, MA



UPCOMING EVENTS: PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES



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|-------|--|
| 10/16 | MS/HS PSO Meeting @ 9:30 AM |
| 10/16 | Middle School Progress Reports Visible |
| 10/19 | MS/HS Picture Retakes |
| 10/27 | MS/HS School Council @ 2:20 PM |
| 10/28 | PISA Testing |