

Dear Parents,

Within the next two weeks I will be distributing a booklet to each of the freshmen, sophomore and junior classes related to the upcoming PSAT. The PSAT will be administered on October 19 to students in those grades.

The PSAT is a critical part of a student's future in that the information from this test prepares a student for the SAT, assists in career exploration as well as provides scholarships. Students who take the PSAT, on average, score higher than those who do not take the test. The PSAT is published by the same company that publishes the SAT. As the student becomes comfortable with the testing situation and format, the student taking the PSAT will be able to focus on the test questions with less concern over the time constraints or format of items on the SAT.

Career/vocational options can be explored when reviewing one's strengths and weaknesses. The results can also provide personalized feedback through the website: [satpractice.org](http://satpractice.org).

The PSAT results from the junior year are used to provide information to the National Merit Scholarship Program. This program represents nearly \$180 million in combined annual awards. A more thorough list of corporate sponsors is in the booklet. A sample of agencies offering scholarships include the American Indian Graduate Center, Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

Please review the booklet with your student. Included in the booklet is a practice test which, if used properly, will assure your student of greater success on the test date. Additional information will be made available as the test date approaches.

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Director of Guidance