

**COLD SPRING HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL
THE COUNSELING CENTER
631-367-6840**

AUGUST 1, 2012

PSAT INFORMATION FOR 10TH GRADE STUDENTS

The PSAT, a preliminary/practice form of the SAT college entrance examination, is administered to all eleventh-grade students and some tenth-grade students each October. I am writing to acquaint you with information about this examination so you can decide whether it is in your best interest to take the PSAT in your sophomore year, or whether you should wait until October of your junior year.

Remember, college-entrance examination scores are but one criterion that colleges use to assess your college applications. College admission personnel tell us repeatedly that *no other part of your eventual college applications is more important than earning good grades in courses that challenge you*. The PSAT and SAT measure critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills developed over many years, so your coursework is central to your life as a student.

You must make the decision that is right for **you**, however, and the information below may help.

Possible advantages of early PSAT	Possible Disadvantages of early PSAT
You will take the PSAT (practice SAT) under formal testing conditions.	You may have just begun to study some of the subjects covered on the PSAT, particularly geometry.
You will become familiar with the format, directions, timing and types of questions on the SAT.	You may feel discouraged when you receive your score report, especially if many topics unfamiliar to you appear on the test.
You will receive your own testing booklet, your score report and a list of the correct answers in December, thereby enabling you to identify and target areas of weakness.	You may focus too soon on test preparation rather than devote the bulk of your study time to your coursework. Remember that your academic record represents your work over long periods of time and college admission tests represent just a few hours of testing time.
You are the kind of person who is ready and willing to try even if it means you might not do well.	You are the kind of person who prefers not to place too much pressure on yourself before it is necessary.

Specific information about the PSAT can be found at www.collegeboard.com/psat. Students who decide to take the PSAT as sophomores will find PSAT registration information on the following pages.

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PSAT REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 10TH GRADE STUDENTS

The **PSAT** (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered at Cold Spring Harbor High School on **Saturday, October 20, 2012**. **Test takers must arrive in the PAC by 7:30 am with their calculators and two #2 pencils. We do not provide calculators for those who forget them; the math test questions are able to be computed without a calculator.** Snacks are permitted during the brief test breaks.

- The PSAT is a risk-free examination; scores are not released to colleges. You can visit www.collegeboard.org/psat to learn more.
- **Students must register and pay a \$35.00 fee to take the PSAT.**
- **Register at www.TotalRegistration.net/PSAT/331437**
It is important that the email addressed used when registering for the test be that of the student.
- **The absolute deadline for PSAT registration is Monday, September 24, 2012 after which the registration site will close.**
Please understand that proctors must be secured and trained, rooms and custodial tasks assigned, security matters arranged, and students with disabilities assured of receiving their pre-approved accommodations. These time-consuming tasks must be completed well in advance of the test to insure a smooth and accurate administration.
- Students who take the PSAT will receive their scores in early December along with their own test booklets and a list of correct answers, enabling them to turn their attention to any areas of weakness as they prepare for the SAT to be taken later in the year.
- A calendar that lists the examination dates and registration deadlines for the SAT and the ACT is enclosed. Please keep the calendar for future reference, as you must register for the official SAT and ACT tests on their websites. **It is not too early to register now if you will take Subject Tests, especially for the June 2013 test administration, which is usually filled by February if you wish to test on Long Island.** An information sheet about Subject Tests is also enclosed.
- **Please note that many test centers, Cold Spring Harbor among them, do NOT accept students who have not registered in advance for the SAT or Subject Tests.**