



# THE COUNSELING CENTER NEWSLETTER



An Update from the Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Department

February 2016

## PSAT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

The results of the Preliminary SAT (PSAT), which was administered on October 28, 2015, were mailed home last week. This score report provides a detailed analysis of the student's performance including:

- The response to each question/the correct answers
- The type and level of difficulty of each question
- Percentile representations of the scores
- How to improve on the redesigned SAT
- The students personal access code on [studentscores.collegeboard.org](http://studentscores.collegeboard.org) to see question-and-answer explanations

We encourage you to review this report with your child. It is important to learn as much as possible from the PSAT experience so that the student is able to do his/her best on the redesigned SAT.

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*“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”*

*- Albert Einstein*

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## PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Last week, counselors began meeting with students individually to go over course selections for the 2016-2017 school year. These meetings will continue to take place through mid-March. Student course recommendations made by your child's current subject area teachers can be found on the parent and student portals. Every parent can assist his/her child by reviewing these course selections and consulting the Program of Study online when necessary to clarify the choices the student makes. A link to the counseling center webpage can be found below:

<http://www.csh.k12.ny.us/High.cfm?subpage=266395>

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# INFORMATION ON THE REDESIGNED SAT

The first new redesigned PSAT was administered in October 2015. The first redesigned SAT will be administered in March 2016 (3 hours and 50 minutes in length).

## Evidence-Based Reading and Writing(200-800):

- Passage-based
- Cross-disciplinary context—Humanities, Social Studies, Science and Career
- Focus on expression of ideas, relevant words in context, and command of evidence (graphical information in writing a passage)

## Math (200-800):

- Focus on application, procedural skills and fluency, conceptual and understanding
- Algebra, Problem Solving/Data Analysis, Advanced Algebra
- Calculator/No Calculator sections

## Essay (optional):

- More closely mirror college writing assignments
- Cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing
- Last part of the SAT exam
- Scoring on a 2-8 scale

## Other key changes:

- 5 answer choices compared to 4
- No penalty for wrong answers
- Score is out of 1600 (Evidence-Based Reading and Math)
- Essay section score is 2-8 scale

For more information, please feel free to visit [www.deliveringopportunity.org](http://www.deliveringopportunity.org) and click on Inside the new SAT.

## Upcoming SAT/ACT test dates:

- February 6, 2016 ACT (Not offered in NYS)
- March 5, 2016 SAT Only (CSH is NOT a test site). \*Redesigned SAT\*
- April 9, 2016 ACT (CSH is NOT a test site)
- May 7, 2016 SAT and SAT Subject Tests (CSH IS a test site). \*Redesigned SAT\*
- June 4, 2016 SAT and SAT Subject Tests (CSH IS a test site). \*Redesigned SAT\*
- June 11, 2016 ACT (CSH is NOT a test site)

## UPCOMING NIGHT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

GRADE 10 PARENT WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016  
7 P.M.  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

This program is intended to give you confidence in preparing your child for junior year: standardized exams, elective opportunities, Naviance Family Connections and other pertinent information. We will also be reviewing the Career Dimensions program that our students participate in in their sophomore year. Please mark your calendars.

WILSON TECH BOCES SCHOOL TRIP  
ATTENTION: SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

Join us on Thursday, March 10, 2016 (during periods 1-5) for our BOCES annual school visit. Take a tour and learn all about the many wonderful vocational training programs offered to our students. See your counselor as soon as possible for a permission slip.

## QUICK BITS: FINANCIAL AID

Attention junior students and parents: Changes are coming to the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) starting in the 2016-2017 school year. Prior-prior year (PPY) is a policy enabling students and their families to file the FAFSA using tax information from two years ago. Families will now be able to complete the new FAFSA form starting October 1, 2016. The belief is that PPY will help students to know their financial aid eligibility early in the college admissions process.

Andrew Rosenberg, Director of Guidance