

The **PSAT/NMSQT** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is coming up soon! For the first time this year, Issaquah School District will administer the PSAT to **all sophomore & junior students**, as a part of an official school day. The test is **Wednesday, October 14th @ 9:40am**. If you still need to sign your student up, you may pay through the online payment system or pay directly to our ASB Bookkeeper – the test is \$13.

We will provide additional info via eNews, the IHS website, and to students in class about what to do on the testing day. For approximately 3 hours, the PSAT is what all 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be doing. We are dependent on all students to sign up ASAP in order to coordinate the logistics of testing day, so the sooner students register, the sooner we can firm up plans & provide students with further details. Sign up today! Watch eNews for further updates.

### **What is the PSAT?**

The PSAT is the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test that provides sophomores and juniors with the opportunity to get ready for the official SAT. Please note: this is different than the Mock SAT offered by our PTSA organization. The test is written and scored by College Board, the same company that writes and scores the SAT, and the testing environment is very similar to the actual SAT environment. In addition to the physical experience of taking the standardized test, each student receives personalized feedback on each section of the test, and can log into a personalized planning guide based on their test results on [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

This is a **low-stakes testing opportunity** – the PSAT scores **are not sent to colleges**, and **are not a part of the college application process** for any student. For sophomores, their scores are purely for their own self-knowledge. For juniors, the PSAT scores are used as qualifying data for the National Merit Scholarship Competition, but this is the **ONLY** thing their scores are used for other than their own information.

### **What are the benefits of taking this test?**

Because a college entrance test (SAT/ACT) is a requisite part of nearly every 4-yr college, any student who is even contemplating college would benefit from participating in the PSAT. Taking the PSAT familiarizes students with the kind of questions, the style of directions, and the physical environment of a SAT exam. It also provides students with a projected SAT score range, excellent personalized feedback and a study plan. This is an incredibly affordable way to prepare for a college entrance exam. For our highest performing students, the PSAT is also the way they can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

For your tenth grader, this test provides a completely no-stakes opportunity to get acquainted with the standardized testing environment and format. It's also a great opportunity for students who have difficulties with test-taking situations to prepare, get practice and receive personalized feedback in a safe environment, before taking the real SAT/ACT at the end of their Junior year.

### **How does my student sign up for the exam?**

ALL 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected to participate in the PSAT test. If you paid the \$13 fee during the back-to-business process, your student is already signed up, and should have received a study guide in junior English & sophomore European Studies classes recently. If your student hasn't received a study guide, they still need to register. Simply click on the "Pay Online" link (<https://web.issaquah.wednet.edu/touchbase/login-form.aspx>) on the IHS website (<http://www.ihs.issaquah.wednet.edu/>), pay \$13 for the PSAT and print out your receipt. Or bring a \$13 check made out to Issaquah High School to the ASB Bookkeeper. Your student can then bring the receipt into the Counseling Office (C3) to pick up their study guide.

### **How can my student prepare for this test?**

Each student should read their PSAT Study Guide to learn more about the exam and testing day. This guide provides useful tips, test-taking strategies, practice questions, a full PSAT practice test, etc.

The test will begin at 9:40am sharp and runs about 3 hours. A multi-hour exam can be an exhausting situation, so the night before the exam, please encourage your students eat a healthy dinner and get a good night's sleep. We encourage students to eat breakfast at home in the morning, and to bring a water bottle and a snack for mid-morning.

They will also want to come with several pencils, an eraser, and a calculator for the test. They should come dressed in layers and comfortable, non-binding clothing.

**When does my student receive his/her results?**

Results are typically delivered to Issaquah High School and distributed to students in early January.