

Dear Parents and Students,

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, all juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT® at Eldorado High School.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT can encourage a student to start thinking seriously about life after high school, about college and career goals and about the education needed to reach those goals. The PSAT/NMSQT has been redesigned to mirror the redesigned SAT®. Students have been preparing for this exam by reviewing the information on the PSAT/NMSQT prep booklet during their history classes.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT provides the following advantages to students:

- It measures the reading, math, and writing skills needed for college.
- Prepares students for the new redesigned SAT.
- The Student Search Service® gives PSAT/NMSQT test takers the option to voluntarily place their names and addresses in a pool of college-bound students interested in receiving admission and financial aid information from certified colleges, universities and scholarship agencies.
- Provides practice recommendations on Kahn Academy.
- Juniors who score well may qualify for scholarships including the National Merit Recognition Scholarship and the National Hispanic Recognition Program. Please see the back of this letter for more information.
- It provides valuable information to parents and students on student potential for advanced academics in high school.

Student scores will be available online in December 2017. A paper copy of student score reports will be distributed mid-January. Along with the score reports, PSAT/NMSQT test takers will receive a unique access code to gain access to an online score reporting portal. From there students have access to all the college and career exploration programs available on College Board.

For more information, visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>.

If you have any questions regarding the PSAT/NMSQT® administration or the available scholarship opportunities, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Lyndi O'Neil

Counselor-SCISD

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National Merit Scholarship Program

When you take the PSAT/NMSQT, you're automatically screened for the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. For more information, visit the NMSQT website at <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>.

National Hispanic Recognition Program

The College Board recognizes academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino U.S. juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT. The College Board reaches out to students who:

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October of their junior year
- identify as Hispanic/Latino on your PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet where it asks for race and ethnicity
- Are at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino
- Achieve the minimum required PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index score
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year

For more information visit:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scholarships-and-recognition/national-hispanic-recognition-program>

New Scholarships

The College Board's new scholarship partners provide millions of dollars to qualified low-income and minority students — and they use the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 to help find them. New scholarship partners include:

- American Indian Graduate Center
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
- United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

For more information visit:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scholarships-and-recognition/new-scholarships>

*I would be happy to email you this information so you are able to use the links. Send me an email with the subject "PSAT Scholarships" and I will send it to you. Thanks!

