



Dear Parent/Guardian:

On October 13th, all first time 10th grade students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT at McDonough High School. Normally there would be a small fee to take the test, but the Georgia Department of Education is covering the cost of the test for all 10th graders.

The PSAT tests include reading, writing and language, and math. The test measures the student's college and career readiness. It is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments. Scores for the PSAT use the same scale as the SAT, so the PSAT will give you information on how your child would perform on the SAT if they took it this year.

The benefits of taking the PSAT in 10th grade include:

- Free online access to Khan Academy where SAT practice is tailored to the strengths and weaknesses of the individual student based on their PSAT results. This will also help each student to prepare for additional secondary courses they will take through the remaining portion of the academic career as well as identifying advanced coursework opportunities.
- Preparation for retaking the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade and competing for college scholarships. Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade may enter the National Merit Scholarship Program. Other agencies also use the PSAT to identify students who may be eligible for their scholarships. These scholarships amount to nearly \$160 million every year.
- Preparation for taking the SAT, a college entrance exam. Historically, students who have taken the PSAT score higher on the SAT on average than those who don't take the PSAT. For specific information about the test, consult the [PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide](#).

Students are encouraged to bring their own calculator on the day of the test; both scientific and graphing calculators are allowed.

If you have questions about the PSAT/NMSQT Assessment please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor or principal.

Sincerely,

Antonio Mattox
Principal
McDonough High School