



October 3, 2017

Dear Parents:

College admission testing is an important part of every student's college application, and at Saint Joseph Academy we strive to do all we can to help our students prepare for these tests. On Wednesday, October 11, all students in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT 8/9; the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT/MNSQT Test. These tests are very similar in format to the SAT Reasoning Test which many colleges require for admission. Please take time to discuss the importance of these tests with your student and emphasize getting a good night's sleep and eating a proper breakfast to be better prepared in the morning.

Here are some points to remember:

- For juniors, the PSAT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Hispanic Recognition Program which may provide college scholarships.
- For younger students, the test results will allow Saint Joseph Academy faculty to identify areas where students may need some extra work to strengthen their skills.
- For all students, this is an opportunity to gain valuable experience and prepare to take the SAT.

How to prepare:

- Students need to bring sharpened #2 pencils and a calculator to use on the math portion.
- Students may **not** share calculators with other students.
- It is not possible to study specifically for the PSAT, but the students have been preparing with practice tests in their English and Math classes and additional practice materials are available at [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org).

On October 11<sup>th</sup>:

- All 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will report to school at 8:15 AM, and they will be dismissed after the test at approximately 12:05 PM.
- Students testing with extended time will be dismissed at about 1:10 PM (10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>); for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, at 12:35 PM.
- The school bus will leave at 12:20 PM; students testing with extended time will need to make transportation arrangements.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be on retreat.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have no school.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Counseling Department.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melissa Valadez  
Principal