

October 10, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Students in 8th grade will take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) 8/9 on (1) Monday, October 16, 2017, between 9:05 am -11:30 am, and (2) Tuesday, October 17, 2017, between 11:31 am - 3:05 pm. Also, on Tuesday, October 17th, 8th grade students will have lunch and study hall during this testing time frame. The PSAT 8/9 is an assessment that measures academic skills in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and in Mathematics. The results from the PSAT 8/9 will be one of several tools that are used in helping to determine placement in high school courses.

Students are allowed to use calculators including the TI-Nspire CAS. Students must bring #2 pencils (non-mechanical) and a calculator (check the batteries).

Metamora Township High School will be obtaining test results which they will share with us at a later date.

You can help your child do his or her best on the test by:

- making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of the testing;
- making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
- reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand the test directions;
- letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do his or her best; and
- advising your child not to worry about the test – just do the best he or she can.

If you have further questions about the PSAT 8/9 please contact MGS. You can also find additional information on the PSAT 8/9 by visiting: <http://psat.org/8-9>. The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and the PSAT 10. The PSAT 8/9 also establishes a baseline measurement of a student's college and career readiness. Additionally, the PSAT 8/9 gives each student personalized feedback about his/her academic strengths and weaknesses, helping each student to prepare for success in college and careers. Educators will have an early opportunity to: 1. Measure and follow student performance; 2. Ensure students are on target to achieve college and career readiness; 3. Pinpoint areas for development; and 4. Identify students who have the potential to be successful in Advanced Placement courses.

We look forward to sharing the PSAT 8/9 results with you later this year.

Kind Regards,

Cathy Costello, K-8 Principal

PSAT™ 8/9

Information for Parents

What is the PSAT™ 8/9?

The PSAT 8/9 is an assessment given to eighth- and ninth-graders that is closely aligned to the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, and PSAT™ 10. It consists of questions in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and in Math.

What are the benefits of taking the PSAT 8/9 assessment?

It helps establish a baseline for students as they enter high school and begin preparing for college and career readiness. It also provides students with better access to data and personalized study through the online College Board and Khan Academy® resources.

When will my student take the PSAT 8/9 assessment?

It will be administered during class time on the following date: _____

How should my student prepare?

The best preparation is to deeply engage in classroom learning and practice skills over time. On test day, your student should answer all the questions to the best of his or her ability. It will also help if he or she gets plenty of sleep the night before test day.

What should my student bring on test day?

Your student will need two No. 2 pencils with soft erasers, an acceptable calculator, and (optionally) his or her student ID number or Social Security number.

How long will the assessment take and how many questions are there?

Actual testing time is 2 hours and 25 minutes. There are 42 Reading questions, 40 Writing and Language questions, and 38 Math questions.

Some students will take a fifth section that takes an additional 20 minutes.

What should my student do if he or she doesn't know an answer?

Your student may encounter some difficult questions that he or she does not know how to answer. Advise your student not to get discouraged if this happens, but to answer every question to the best of his or her ability.

A message for parents

The PSAT 8/9 assessment will help your student prepare for the future. By taking the PSAT 8/9, your student will learn which skills he or she needs to work on for continued success through high school and college. In addition, the PSAT 8/9 will identify areas where your student excels and may want to consider taking higher-level courses, as well as areas he or she should focus on to improve academically. Please note that PSAT 8/9 scores are not sent to colleges.

How does my student receive PSAT 8/9 scores?

Your student will get a paper score report at school with a unique code giving him or her access to a robust online score report. The scores reported will grow to include every test your student takes that is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments (see collegeboard.org/sat-suite for more information).

The online experience is designed to help you and your student understand the scores better and to use the feedback to build new skills based on a detailed breakdown of your student's performance.

