***Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about the PSAT***

What:                       PSAT

When and Where:       **The PSAT is October 17th starting at 7:45 a.m**. at Sparkman High School.  ***This is the only opportunity for students to take this test this year***.  Please contact the College Board with questions regarding this.

Who:                           Sophomores and juniors are eligible to take this test.

Fee:                             $15

* How:               **Dr. Clanton** will sign up all sophomores and juniors who desire to take advantage of this opportunity **before and after school.** The registration window for the PSAT is August 31st through September 18th.
* How                **Ms. Muhammad** will sign up all sophomores and juniors on September 10th, 11th, and 12th in the cafeteria.

The **deadline to register for the 2012 PSAT is September 18th**.  All checks must be made payable to Sparkman High School.

***What is the PSAT?***

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) measures the educational skills your child has developed. These include:

* Critical reading skills
* Mathematics problem-solving skills
* Writing skills

The PSAT/NMSQT is the best preparation for the SAT. **Students take the PSAT as juniors to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's scholarship programs.  Taking the PSAT is the only way students can qualify for this scholarship program.**

***Why Should my child take the PSAT?***

**It’s important that your child get a sense of what admission tests are like. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT® gives your child a chance to become familiar with the SAT format and the types of questions on the test. Your child can use the PSAT/NMSQT score report and the features of My College QuickStart\* to pinpoint where more work is needed and identify other steps to take on the road to college.**

**In addition to assessing critical academic skills, the PSAT/NMSQT provides an opportunity for your child to:**

* **Prepare for the SAT: the test uses similar questions and the same directions.**
* **Qualify for scholarships (if your child is a junior).**
* **Compare scores with other college-bound students around the country.**
* **Forecast SAT scores.**
* **Get personalized feedback on skill strengths and weaknesses.**
* **Get free information from colleges and scholarship programs through the Student Search Service®.**
* Use My College QuickStart\* to plan ahead for college and a career.

*(More information about College Quickstart can be found here:* [*https://quickstart.collegeboard.com/posweb/login.jsp*](https://quickstart.collegeboard.com/posweb/login.jsp)

*and is accessible* ***AFTER*** *your student has taken the PSAT*

**For information about preparing for the PSAT please read below and also go to the following website**:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html>

### Inside the Classroom

One of the best ways your child can get ready is to take rigorous academic courses and study hard. Your child should enroll in challenging courses in English, math, science, social studies and languages. The fine arts also enrich a student’s problem-solving and expressive abilities.  Algebra and geometry, in particular, give your child the skills needed to do well on the math section of the SAT and other college admission tests.

### Outside the Classroom

Although your child spends most of the day in class, outside activities are important, too. Here are some examples of ways your child can supplement the classroom experience:

* **Read regularly.** Reading newspapers, novels, textbooks, poems and magazines can help your child build vocabulary. Students who have strong reading habits tend to do well on the critical reading part of the SAT.
* **Learn to attack new words.** Looking up unfamiliar words in the dictionary and trying to get a handle on prefixes, suffixes and root words can help vocabulary building as well. Studying another language can also help your child figure out new words.
* **Write as much as possible.** Joining the yearbook team, composing flyers to raise funds for a club, starting a journal — these are some of the many opportunities your child can take advantage of to practice writing.

Dedra L. Muhammad

*Guidance Counselor*

*Sparkman High School*

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