



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1151 SW Vermont, Portland, OR 97219

Telephone (503) 916-5280 FAX (503) 916-2705

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/wilson/>

**WILSON HIGH SCHOOL**

September 15, 2017

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s) of 11<sup>th</sup> graders,


This fall, Wilson High School will again be offering the PSAT/NMSQT exam to all sophomores and those juniors who register for the exam. The PSAT/NMSQT (or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a preliminary version of the SAT that not only helps prepare students to take the SAT or ACT, but can also open the door to National Merit Scholarships and other awards. There are \$180 million dollars in scholarships awarded to students who achieve high scores when they take the test in their Junior year, and students who perform well on this exam can earn scholarship dollars for college. These prestigious scholarships range from \$500 to \$10,000.

Your student most likely took the PSAT for free as a sophomore at Wilson. The test is a great way to practice for the SAT, meet graduation requirements and qualify for scholarships. We encourage all juniors to register and pay to take the test again. If as a sophomore, your student scored in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher, (scores are available on your students Naviance account or CollegeBoard) we highly encourage them to study and take the PSAT as a junior because qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Competition is based on junior-year scores.

If you would like your student to take the test, please sign up and pay online at School Pay or in the bookkeeper's office at Wilson. The cost is \$20; fee waivers are also available, for those who qualify. Contact Abby Menashe to apply for a waiver. The deadline to register is September 27<sup>th</sup>. This year's **PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> during the regular school day, from 8:15am - noon.** Wilson will be operating on a modified schedule with an early dismissal that day, so please consult with the website and/or the bulletin for what the day will look like as it gets closer.

If your student registers for the exam, please have them to school on time, well fed, and prepared for testing. We start checking in students at 8:15 and once the test begins, no student is admitted late. Students can find out their assigned testing rooms a few days before the exam.

To find more resources on the PSAT and/or the National Merit Scholarship, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org). Additional resources for exam preparation are listed below. Your student should make some time in the next few weeks to prepare.

Sincerely,  
  
Sara Gandarilla  
Vice Principal, Wilson High School

## PSAT Exam Preparation Help

Following are some PSAT preparation websites, many of which are *free*. There are also many fee-based test preparation programs in the area, a quick Google search will also help locate additional resources locally and online. Many of the websites will give you test taking tips, practice tests, test day procedures and tips, descriptions of tests, and more.

While this is not an endorsement of the programs or sites, or one site over the other, we hope you find them helpful!

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>

Explains what is on the test and includes practice questions for each section: critical reading, math and writing skills. The "Official Student Guide" has test taking tips and a full-length practice test.

<http://www.studyguidezone.com/pdfs/psatateststudyguide.pdf>

68 page pdf study guide for the PSAT. Contains sample test questions with answers and explanations. General information and what to expect on the test day is also included.

<http://www.studyguidezone.com/psatatest.htm>

Includes a link for writing, reading, and math practice questions in addition to general test information.

<http://www.free-test-online.com/psatnmsqt-test>

Includes test questions for the Grid-In section and multiple choice. There is a link for the explanation of the differences between the SAT/PSAT and ACT/PSAT tests.

<http://www.testpreppractice.net/PSAT/Free-Online-PSAT-Practice-Tests.aspx>

Offers several practice tests for each section of the PSAT. Good information on the test structure, how the test answers are weighted and what your test score means.

<http://www.brightstorm.com/psat>

Site includes a question and answer section, videos, practice sections, flashcards, practice tests and personalized reports.

[http://www.testpreview.com/psat\\_practice.htm](http://www.testpreview.com/psat_practice.htm)

(after PSAT there is an \_ in the web address) Site includes practice tests in basic & advanced algebra, averages & rounding and basic operations