



April, 2013

Dear Rising Junior Parents:

As your child looks ahead to junior year, we wanted to be in touch about some important issues regarding standardized testing for next year, as well as address some common questions that parents have at this time.

The College Board opens up registration for 2013-2014 in June, and because Middlesex School has a limited number of seats available on test dates for the SATs, we want to encourage your child to register for the SAT Reasoning Test as soon as possible. We will email you and your child once registration opens up on the College Board website.

Near the end of the first semester, in December and January, Middlesex juniors are expected to take the SAT Reasoning Test. Towards the end of the spring semester, in May and June, we recommend that the juniors take the SAT Subject Tests since they align nicely with their coursework in the spring. This recommended testing calendar will front-load some testing and lighten the spring load. It is our experience that by taking the SAT Reasoning Test twice during the junior year winter, and again in the fall of the senior year, juniors can be relieved of SAT concerns and test prep during the crucial spring months of their junior year. By focusing on the SAT Subject Tests in May and June, students can therefore dedicate themselves to their classroom work, which ultimately is the best preparation for the Subject Tests and Advanced Placement exams. Please note that this is a suggested calendar; individual students can and do create testing calendars to conform to their own needs.

Below are some frequently asked questions that we field from junior families:

***What is the PSAT and what is its role in the college process?***

The first step in the testing sequence and preparation for the SATs is the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) which the junior class will take on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. As a diagnostic tool for testing preparation, the PSAT is an opportunity for students to take a dry run at test taking. Like the sophomore PSAT, the test results are never seen by anyone but the student, parents, college counselors and the academic office. The students receive (after the test is scored) the actual test they took, with an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses on their performance in early December. The junior PSAT/NMSQT is an integral part of the determination of a student's eligibility for the National Merit Competition. We automatically register the juniors for the PSAT so you do not need to worry about this registration.

***Why register now for the SAT Reasoning Test? It feels too early.***

To secure a space at Middlesex, we ask that your child registers on-line *as soon as possible* for the December and January SAT test dates. Middlesex has a limited capacity as a test center. If your child registers late and is assigned to another test center, we cannot guarantee that we can switch your child into Middlesex. On-line registration is the most efficient method for signing up for the tests; however, it does require that your child has access to a credit card to pay for the test. If your child is a non-standard tester, he or she can register on-line as well, but please make sure you have his or her College Board SSD number available during the registration process. Enclosed are instructions on how to register for the SATs on the College Board web site.

***Should my child register for the SAT Subject Tests right now?***

We will be meeting with the junior class during the first week of school to discuss registration for the SAT Subject Tests, among other important topics. It is fine to wait on registering for the spring tests once we have this meeting with the class. Most Middlesex juniors take the subject tests in literature and math in May, and then take two subject tests in June, depending on their curriculum. Common tests taken in June include U.S. history, physics, math, literature, and a foreign language. It is important to note that you can switch subject tests on the day of the test; therefore, the student is not committed to specific tests even though they are asked to select them when they register. The key issue is registering for the test and reserving a seat at Middlesex.

***What is the testing calendar for the Class of 2015?***

PSAT: Wednesday, October 16, 2013  
SAT Reasoning Test: Saturday, December 7, 2013  
SAT Reasoning Test: Saturday, January 25, 2014  
SAT Subject Tests: Saturday, May 3, 2014  
SAT Subject Tests: Saturday, June 7, 2014\*

\*Please note that the dorms close on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Juniors will need to register for a test center close to their homes.

We also encourage all juniors to take the ACT on Saturday, June 14, 2014 if they are able. We will discuss this option among other topics in our meeting over Parents' Weekend in the fall.

***Is there an SAT prep course at Middlesex for the juniors?***

In response to families' wishes for on campus tutoring, Advantage Testing will be running a SAT review course at Middlesex that will focus solely on the SAT Reasoning Test. Over the past eleven years, this course has been well-received by our students who have elected to take it. While Middlesex School does not endorse any test prep organization, many Middlesex students have been more than satisfied with the services Advantage Testing has provided. Six to seven students will be paired with one tutor, meeting 10 times for one and a half hours per session. The students and tutor will meet at mutually agreeable times based on their academic, athletic and extracurricular commitments from October through January. The SAT course will start the third week of October and run through the month of January, ending just before the January SAT test date. This schedule will allow students to do SAT prep work over several vacation periods and prepare for the December and January tests. The goal of the course is to prepare the students for their best performance on the January test. We will send a follow-up letter in September with details on the course.

If you have any questions about the class or want to inquire about individual tutoring, you are welcome to contact Dan Kusik, the director of Advantage Testing, at [kusikdan@gmail.com](mailto:kusikdan@gmail.com). For more information, please go to <http://www.advantagetesting.com/locations/boston>.

***Will there be practice SATs offered to the students?***

We will also be offering a series of practice SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and ACT tests throughout the school year so students can become familiar with the test and testing conditions. Students will be asked to sign up in the College Office, and we will communicate with the students directly about registration, times and locations of the practice tests as we near the dates. We will also post the dates on the Middlesex web site and communicate them to you directly at the beginning of the school year.

If you have any questions about the testing calendar or anything else related to our office, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your child through the college process. Please register for the December and January SATs as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeGreeff  
Director of College Counseling