

March, 2017

Dear Middlesex Parent:

We are writing to inform you about the SAT Subject Tests that Middlesex students consider taking in June. While we recommend that students consult with their teachers to confirm that they support the students in taking the subject tests, we felt it was important that you were made aware of this testing opportunity, as well as to inform you about the SAT Subject Tests. Generally, students in Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Pre-Calculus: Trigonometry (Math 32), Pre-Calculus: Advanced Topics (Math 49), and Modern World History are the best candidates to take subject tests in June.

Selective colleges require that applicants take two or three SAT Subject Tests in addition to the SAT and/or the ACT. While the SAT is a general knowledge test that is designed to measure critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, the SAT Subject Tests are one-hour, primarily multiple-choice tests designed to measure knowledge in a particular subject and the application of that knowledge in a structured and timed testing environment. Like the SAT, the subject tests are scored on a 200 to 800 scale. A majority of the highly selective colleges focus on the two or three best test scores and consider them when they review a student's application. Colleges that require the SAT Subject Tests generally prefer that students take one of the math subject tests and two additional tests left to the discretion of the student. Students applying to engineering programs are usually required to take Math Level II and Chemistry or Physics. The scores from the subject tests serve a dual purpose for the colleges: they are important indicators in the selection process and for appropriate course placement once students enroll. Middlesex students typically take SAT Subject Tests in May and June of their junior year; depending upon their performance, they retake one to three more tests in the fall of their senior year. If students are able to take a subject test in their freshman or sophomore years when they are familiar with the material, they will have greater flexibility and more test score options available as they attempt to assemble the three best subject test scores for the college process.

To learn more about the SAT Subject Tests, we recommend that you go to the College Board website: sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-subject-test-preparation. The College Board offers a detailed explanation of each subject test, opportunities to take mini-practice tests, free downloadable publications and information about test preparation. Additionally, Advantage Testing is offering practice SAT Subject Tests on the morning of Sunday, May 14th at Middlesex. The \$30 fee for each test will be applied to your child's school bill, and the results will be available two or three days later, given directly to the students. We strongly encourage students to take the practice tests to prepare them for the testing environment, multiple choice questions and pacing of the standardized test. Students will be informed about signing up in the College Office a week before the practice tests.

With the College Board's Score Choice policy, students are able to select which scores they want to send to colleges by individual test for the SAT Subject Tests. Some colleges, however, require students to send all SAT scores, so students should be mindful of not over testing and testing at appropriate times. For more information on College Board's Score Choice policy, please visit the College Board website: collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/sending-scores/score-choice

Your child should consider registering for the Biology or Chemistry SAT Subject Tests:

- if your child is doing strong "B+" or higher work in **Honors Biology** and scored in the 88th percentile or higher on the SSAT or scored a 650 or higher on the critical reading section of the PSAT.
- if your child is consistently doing strong "B+" or higher work in **Honors Chemistry** and scored in the 88th percentile on the math section of the SSAT or a 650 or higher on the math section of the PSAT.

We normally do not recommend that students take the SAT Subject Tests if they are in **regular** sections of biology or chemistry. The biology and chemistry teachers have indicated that additional work outside of the classroom is necessary to prepare adequately for these subject tests. If your child wants to take the subject test, is doing “A” level work, scored in the 90th percentile on the SSATs, and is an exceptional tester, we recommend that your child speaks with his or her teacher about taking the subject tests.

Your child should consider registering for the Math Level I SAT Subject Test:

- if he or she is doing “B+” or higher work in **Math 32** and scored in the 90th percentile or higher on the SSAT or 650 or higher on the math section of the PSAT.

Your child should consider registering for the Math Level II SAT Subject Test:

- if he or she is doing “B+” or higher work in **Math 49** and scored in the 90th percentile or higher on the SSAT or 650 or higher on the math section of the PSAT.

Your child should consider registering for the World History SAT Subject Test:

- if he or she is doing “B+” or higher work in **Modern World History** and scored in the 90th percentile or higher on the SSAT or 650; or higher on the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) section of the PSAT; or is preparing to take the AP World History exam in May.

Before making a final decision, we recommend that you and your child contact his or her teacher to determine if it is appropriate to take a SAT Subject Test in June.

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The registration deadline for the June 3rd test date is May 9, 2017.

The dorms are open for students taking the SAT Subject Tests until the afternoon of June 3rd.

To register, your child will need the following items:

- Website: *Student.Collegeboard.org* or phone number: (866) 756-7346.
- Credit card number with expiration date
- Social security number

Please feel free to contact the College Office at (978) 371-6534 if you have any questions or concerns about the SAT Subject Test.

Sincerely,



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