



September, 2018

Dear Sophomore Parents:

As the Sophomore Class begins to prepare for the new school year, we want to alert you to the upcoming PSAT (Preliminary SAT) this October. Middlesex has offered the PSAT to the Sophomore Class in recent years as a practice exam that gives the students experience with this style of test. It also assists us with identifying areas for further reflection and consideration, in the areas of reading, writing, and math, as well as learning differences. All sophomores are automatically registered for the test.

As a diagnostic tool for early intervention in testing preparation, the PSAT is an opportunity for students to take a dry run at test taking. The sophomore PSAT is never seen by anyone but the students, 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. This is a completely internal assessment. Also, this PSAT does not count toward the National Merit Competition, which is an integral part of the junior PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). Your child will be taking the test on the morning of Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Middlesex. The PSAT results are usually available in mid-December and we will send an email with detailed instructions on how to access your child's scores online.

We are pleased to offer this opportunity for your child to practice taking tests of this kind calmly and with confidence. The test is geared toward juniors so please keep in mind that sophomores may improve in a year from now. The test will last for approximately three hours. This PSAT is simply a chance to give everyone some experience (when it does not count) to provide a sense for where they need to concentrate their attention in the future.

If you have any questions about the PSATs or anything else related to our office, please give us a call. If you are interested in finding out more about the college process, please visit our website at [www.mxschool.edu/college-counseling](http://www.mxschool.edu/college-counseling) for more information. We look forward to working with you and your child through the college process.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeGreeff  
Dean of College Counseling  
and Student Enrichment

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