Dear Parents/Guardians of Juniors,

October is a very busy and important month for the class of 2024. During this month, juniors will have the opportunity to take two standardized tests that will benefit them as they begin the college search process. The first opportunity is on Assumption’s testing day, **Wednesday, October 12,** when our juniors will have the opportunity to take the **PSAT/NMSQT**. This is the practice test for the SAT as well as the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. All students are encouraged to test as it will give them an additional test score to compare with their ACT performance and help them determine which test they prefer and will want to focus their individual test preparation efforts on over the next year.

The following week our juniors will take the **National ACT** during the school day on **Tuesday, October 18**. This is the first of TWO opportunities that your daughter will have to take an ACT at Assumption High School during the school day during her junior year at no additional cost to you. She will also take the ACT on **Tuesday, March 28, 2023**. The October test is a great way to get a baseline score and to begin the goal-setting process for the April ACT and any future ACT tests she may take in the college search process.   
**SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18:**

* **Arrival:** 8:15 a.m. Students will test with their English classes in the Convocation and Athletic Center (CAC building).
* **Dismissal**: 12:30 p.m. Juniors will be dismissed for the day when testing is concluded.

Additionally, the PSAT test score report provides excellent and easy-to-read information regarding the skills mastered and those needing review before taking the SAT or ACT. [Sample PSAT report](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/sample-psat-nmsqt-score-report.pdf)

Taking the PSAT as a junior is the sole method for a student to be eligible to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program and to earn recognition as a National Merit Finalist or Commended Student which comes with may scholarship opportunities. This is also the gateway test for scholarships offered by some companies and organizations to the children of their employees. Please check with your employer to see if they offer scholarship opportunities through the PSAT/NMSQT program. More information is available at these links on the [College Board](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scholarships-and-recognition) and [National Merit](https://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/start.aspx?sid=1758&gid=2&pgid=61&cid=160) websites.

As we shared at the Junior Parent Orientation night in August, while we encourage all juniors to take the PSAT, this is an optional testing opportunity for our juniors this year. Juniors opting not to take the PSAT are given a college visit day. In order for their absence to be excused for this day, students must provide documentation from the college visit by the Wednesday we return from fall break. If a student does not take the PSAT or provide documentation from a college visit, this day’s absence will be unexcused. **Please complete this form by Tuesday, September 27, to let us know if your daughter will be taking the PSAT on October 12:** [PSAT RSVP FORM](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-WJNppAkg062waQIN8P7UPxt_qQTIFpCjDIarOpsrM1UODM1MVRKTE1aWjdCUk9ZRlc0VU8yT1JKVS4u)

Our counselors and academic deans will be using these test results to help guide your daughter as well as with our academic departments to help frame their curricular planning. We look forward to this exciting month of testing experiences for your daughter.

Sincerely,

Judy Fieldhouse

Dean of Studies