



Palmyra Area High School

Cougars 1125 Park Drive Palmyra, Pennsylvania 17078-3499 717-838-1331 fax 717-833-5000

Jennifer Kulas
Guidance Counselor

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Dave Watson
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Teresa Markulike
Guidance Counselor

September 19, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your 11th grade student is fast approaching several very important decisions that will be made within the next two years. Of course, post high school plans are at the top of the list! We want to take this opportunity to inform you of upcoming testing and guidance information in the hope that you encourage your son or daughter to consider taking the tests and/or utilizing the resources available to assist in their career growth.

***The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be given at Palmyra High School on October 15, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.** The PSAT does the following: assesses critical reading and writing skills and mathematical reasoning; provides practice for the SAT exam; is the first step, for juniors, in qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition for scholarships and recognition; and gives students a chance to see how their skills compare with those of other students who will apply to college. The PSAT also gives test takers the option to place their name in a pool of college bound students interested in receiving admission and financial aid information from colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies. The cost for the test is \$21. Students can sign up in the Guidance Office before or after school. **The deadline to sign up is September 30, 2011.**

***The SAT exam** will be given at Palmyra High School on **March 10, 2012**. The SAT consists of 3 sections: critical reading, writing, and math. Details regarding the SAT can be found by visiting www.collegeboard.com or by seeing us in the Guidance Office. Many colleges and universities require that students report the scores of this test as part of the application for admission. Many college bound students take this test twice during their junior year. Students may take the test on any of seven dates throughout the 2011/2012 school year if they are willing to travel to another local school where the test is being given. Information about the test dates, test sites, and the test itself is located in the Guidance Office or online at www.collegeboard.com. Encourage your son or daughter to pick up this information.

***The Guidance Office** has information and registration material for the **ACT Assessment**, another college admission and placement test. Many colleges and universities accept scores from either the SAT or ACT. The ACT Assessment includes four tests of educational development in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. There is an optional writing section. The ACT will be given on six dates throughout the 2011/2012 school year at a few locations in central Pennsylvania. Visit www.act.org for further information about this test. Check with colleges of interest to determine which test scores they accept.

*The **ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)** will be given at Palmyra High School on **November 8, 2011**. All 11th grade students are encouraged to take this test as it provides valuable information that aids in the career development process. This test helps students match their interests and abilities to both civilian and military careers. The test is helpful for students whether or not they plan to enter the military. You will receive further information about this test at a later date.

*The **“Counselor Connection”** (CC) is posted in all 11th grade homerooms on a biweekly basis. The Palmyra High School “CC” is given to all junior and senior students. It is a newsletter containing information on scholarships, college representative visits to our school, SAT, and other test information. Parents and students may also access the Counselor Connection on the school’s website at www.pasd.us.

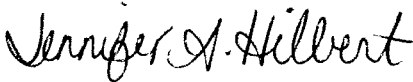
*The Guidance Office has set up free workshops for parents and students on how to pay for college. The **College Funding Workshop** presented by Aidlink will take place on **Tuesday, October 25, 2011 from 7:00-8:15 p.m.** in the Palmyra High School Auditorium. A flyer is attached to this letter with more information on this workshop. Aidlink will also do a presentation and answer questions about the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** in **January 2012** at Palmyra High School. You will receive further information about the FAFSA workshop at a later date. Please consider attending these helpful sessions. For more information about Aidlink and how they can help plan for college expenses, visit their website at www.aidlink.org.

Our Guidance Office consists of 4 Counselors and Mrs. Rachiele Peters, Guidance Secretary. Our office houses reference books on colleges, technical schools, and careers as well as college admissions testing information. Students are divided among the Counselors according to alphabet. Students with last names starting with A through F are with Mrs. Jennifer Kulas; G through K are with Mr. David Watson; L through R are with Mrs. Jennifer Hilbert; and S through Z are with Miss Teresa Markulike. We will speak with your daughter or son on an individual basis by the end of this school year. We would like to emphasize that students are very welcome to ask to see their Counselor at any time during the year for academic, career, and personal concerns or questions.

Please feel free to contact anyone in our office if you have any questions or concerns or would like to set up a meeting with your daughter’s or son’s Counselor and/or teachers. We look forward to assisting your junior throughout the last two years of high school!

Sincerely,

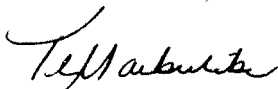
Jennifer Hilbert, Counselor



Jennifer Kulas, Counselor



Teresa Markulike, Counselor



David Watson, Counselor



The Parent Perspective PSAT/NMSQT®

2011

Date: Sat., October 15, 2011

Location: PHS Auditorium

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$21 (checks made out to PASD)

For more information, contact: PHS Guidance Office

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should students take the PSAT/NMSQT®?

The PSAT/NMSQT is the best preparation for the SAT®. Students who take the test in 11th grade and meet other program entry requirements may enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs.

All students who take the PSAT/NMSQT will receive an official score report. They will receive scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills and will see how their scores compare to those of other students across the country. Students will be able to see which answers they got right or wrong. They will also receive information about how they performed on specific academic skills.

Students who take the test will receive free access to My College QuickStart™, an online college and career planning tool that contains an online PSAT/NMSQT Score Report; a customized My SAT Study Plan™, a personality test, and personalized lists of colleges, majors and careers. For more information, visit www.collegeboard.org/quickstart.

Other special opportunities for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade include the National Hispanic Recognition Program. For more information, see your student's counselor or visit www.collegeboard.org.

2. Who should take the PSAT/NMSQT?

Typically, students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 11 of high school. It is also beneficial for younger students to take the test to get a head start on improving academic skills needed for success in college and beyond. Last year, more than half of all test-takers were in grade 10 or younger.

3. What should be done to prepare for this test?

Classroom learning is the basis for test questions, so the best way students can prepare is by taking rigorous courses and becoming familiar with the test and its format. Students should review the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*, which is full of useful information, including a full-length practice test. The *Guide* and the practice test will help students understand all the directions and be familiar with the types of questions that will be asked.

4. If students don't do well on this test, will it hurt their chances of getting into college?

Absolutely not. If anything, the PSAT/NMSQT will improve their chances, since it provides personalized information on the types of skills that the student needs to improve to prepare for the SAT and college. PSAT/NMSQT scores are not sent to colleges.

5. How many times may a student take this test?

Only once a year, but there is no limit to how many years a student may participate. It is important that 11th-grade students take the test to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions, as well as to prepare for the SAT.

6. What is Student Search Service®, and should students check "Yes"?

When students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they are asked if they would like to participate in the College Board's Student Search Service®, a free service that provides names of students to certified educational organizations. If students choose to participate, they allow colleges, universities, scholarship programs and educational opportunity organizations to send information about the educational and financial aid opportunities they offer. Student information is strictly monitored and secure, and individual PSAT/NMSQT test scores are never shared with any outside entity.

7. When may we expect to see the results from the PSAT/NMSQT?

Schools will receive score reports in December and will notify students regarding when, where and how to get their individual reports. Schools also receive an extra copy for the student's file.

8. What else should students be doing to have college as an option after graduation?

Refer to the calendar on the back of this flyer.

At www.collegeboard.org, you'll find more information about the PSAT/NMSQT, My College QuickStart, and planning and paying for college, as well as information on other College Board programs such as the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program®.

Delivered by SAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
in partnership with

 CollegeBoard /  NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

The average cost for a 4-year degree at a public school is **\$77,552¹** - a private school can cost **\$156,112¹**.

Your family could pay just a **FRACTION** of those amounts.

Get The **FACTS!**

Learn everything you need to know about college admissions and financial aid from the professionals!



The **top mistakes** parents make on financial aid forms.

Why you **must** file for aid - regardless of income.

The **easy** steps you can take to get the **most** aid.

How **private schools** can **cost less** than state schools.

AidLink's FREE College Night in Palmyra!

Palmyra Area High School
1125 Park Dr., Palmyra
(In the Auditorium)

Tues., October 25, 2011
7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Can't Make It?

We've got dozens of events throughout Central PA.
Visit www.aidlink.org to find a time that's convenient for you!

Sign Up Online Today!

www.aidlink.org
(717) 508-2005
or
(877) AID-4EDU



¹Statistics from "College Cost Trends" by the College Board.

AidLink is a membership organization recognized by the IRS under IRC§501(c)3. Our members are proud to fully underwrite all program costs. For more details visit www.aidlink.org