

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, at 8 a.m., Pearl River High School will offer the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) to any interested sophomore or junior student in the 2020-2021 school year. The PSAT is a multiple-choice assessment of verbal, mathematics, and writing skills. The PSAT is an optional test that provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test through personalized feedback of student performance with suggestions for improvement. The SAT Reasoning Test, taken later, can be used as a standardized test in college applications and may be helpful for students wanting to pursue admission to highly competitive colleges or universities. The PSAT also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). Top performing juniors nationally (approximately 1%) may be eligible for money through National Merit, National Achievement, or National Hispanic Scholarship funds. Some schools encourage their sophomore students to take the PSAT/NMSQT for guidance purposes; however, if these students are spending four years in grades 9 through 12, they must take the test again when they are juniors to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Be aware number of tests are limited, therefore they will be provided on a first come first serve basis, please do not wait to register. On the morning of the test, students should arrive by 7:45 a.m. with a photo ID, #2 pencils, and a calculator. They should enter the third floor entrance by the flagpole (near auditorium). Please note that cell phones are prohibited (and will be collected for the duration of the test) and calculators or batteries will not be supplied to students. Students must wear a mask for the duration of the test, including during breaks. Testing will conclude by approximately 11:30 a.m. for students with standard testing time. PSAT registration is available from September 14-September 30 for a fee of \$35. Payments must be made by either **mailing** a check to the PRHS Guidance Department or through MySchoolBucks. This fee is non-refundable. After registration, please have your child see the Guidance Department to pick up a Student Guide book provided by the College Board.

If you have any questions regarding the PSAT/NMSQT, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

Thank you,

Kim Haugereid

Teacher / PSAT Supervisor