**PSAT/NMSQT**

**(Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test /**

**National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)**

* **Test Date:** Saturday - October 20th, 2012 @ SDOHS.
* Rooms will be assigned at a later date and posted. Passes will be sent out before the test.
* **Time:** 7:30 a.m. Testing begins. (Plan to be at O’Connor for about 3 hours.)
* **Cost:** $20.00 to be paid via cash or check to the Bookstore.
* **Register: Sign up at the Bookstore. (There is no on-**line registration.) At that time you will receive an Official Student Guide (includes a practice test).
* **Registration Deadline:** Thursday – September 26th, 2012.
* Calculators are highly recommended for the math portion of the test. **Cell phone calculators are not permitted**.
* If you cannot take the test on Sat., Oct.20th, contact another high school in the district to check the date and availability.

**Why take the PSAT?**

* This standardized test is an inexpensive opportunity to practice and prepare for the SAT. Your scores will provide a “predictor” for your performance on the SAT. You will gain firsthand practice for the SAT and become familiar with the kinds of questions and directions on the SAT.
* Juniors enter the competition for scholarships from National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT is the qualifying Test for National Merit Scholarships (Juniors Only). If you qualify as a national merit scholar, you can compete for prestigious scholarships and recognition programs. Taking the PSAT as a sophomore can help improve your junior year scores.
* See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college. The test provides an impartial assessment of your ability to do college level work. You will find out how you rank nationally with other students in Verbal and Mathematical skills.
* College bound athletes are encouraged to take the PSAT. It will help with the NCAA Clearinghouse process.
* Comprehensive Score Report: You will receive a very detailed score report that will help you better prepare for the SAT, as well as aide in college and career searches. You will receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study.
* **You will also receive a free online personalized college and career planning kit that includes: An Online Score Report, SAT Study Plan, a detailed personality test, College Matches and Major & Career Matches**. This is powered by your PSAT results.

# **What's on the Test?**

# The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:

Two 25-minute critical reading sections  
 Two 25-minute math sections  
 One 30-minute writing skills section

* Practice:
  + <http://www.collegeboard.org/> (Within the “PSAT” link you will find a “Preparing” section with practice questions)
  + Practice test found within the Official Student Guide you received when you registered for the test
  + Take challenging classes
* The PSAT will measure skills you have developed over many years, both in and out of school. You do not need to recall specific facts from your classes.