

QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT THE PSAT

1. *What is the PSAT?*

The PSAT (**Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test**) is a shorter version of the SAT. There are verbal, math, and writing skills sections. The PSAT aids in early guidance of students planning for college, and serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

2. *How important is the test in determining my admission to college?*

While the results of this test do become part of your student profile, it is not an absolute requirement for college entrance. Designed as a practice test, it serves as a predictor of what type of score a student may be expected to receive on the SAT.

3. *Who should take this test?*

The PSAT is designed for high school juniors. We recommend that all college bound juniors take the test. Students who are **particularly strong academically** and who are potential National Merit qualifiers may benefit from the experience of taking the test in the sophomore year, but only their junior year scores will be considered in determining National Merit Scholarship eligibility.

4. *What are National Merit Scholarships?*

Each year, approximately 50,000 academically talented juniors are honored nationwide. The only selection criterion is PSAT score. 15,000 of those are named as National Merit Semifinalists, and have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level. About 7,900 seniors are awarded National Merit Scholarships each year.

5. *When should I take the test?*

The PSAT is given once a year on the third Saturday in October.

6. *How do I register?*

Any student may register by bringing a check for \$16, made out to Lakota West High School, to the Guidance Office during the first two weeks in October (Oct. 1-14). No registrations will be accepted after the deadline.

7. *How should I prepare for the PSAT?*

Students will receive practice workbooks at the time of registration.

