

# Sophomore and Junior Newsletter

September 2011

## PSAT/NMSQT: Wednesday, October 12th

The Preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives Juniors a chance to enter NMSC scholarship program. Juniors who earn scores in the top 1% of the students taking the PSAT in the country could earn the title of National Merit Scholar. Students who become National Merit Scholars will earn you a \$1,000 scholarship from Elder. Colleges also have specific scholarships for National Merit Scholars which could range from \$1,000 to full tuition.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- Critical reading skills
- Math problem-solving skills
- Writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

## What is on the test?

### Critical Reading:

13 sentence completions  
35 critical reading questions

### Math:

28 multiple choice questions  
10 student produced responses

(You are able to use a calculator in the Math section.  
See page 17 in the student guide for calculator restrictions and tips)

### Writing:

14 identifying sentence errors  
20 improving sentences  
5 improving paragraph questions

## How long is the test?

The PSAT includes five sections:

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

The entire test requires two hours and ten minutes to complete

## Ways to Prepare for the PSAT:

Students who want to do well on the PSAT must prepare for it by taking practice tests.

1. Each student will receive a student guide to the PSAT at least two weeks before the test. This guide has test taking tips and a practice test.
2. Learning Express Library on the EHS Library website has PSAT practice tests. Students can log in using Elder's username (ehslibrary) and password (panther) and then create their own account with a username and password. If a student creates his own account he can stop and start the practice test every time he logs in. If he does not create his own account then he has to finish the test before logging out.
3. Go to [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) to find ways to prepare for the PSAT with testing strategies and practice questions.

## Results:

Guidance counselors will review students results with them in their classes after we return from Christmas break. Each student will receive an access code to log onto My College Quick Start. College Quick Start provides personal feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT results.