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Dear Sophomores and Families,

Pasco County Schools will administer the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) to 10th grade students on October 28th, 2020 at **no cost to students**. This test is used as a counseling and diagnostic tool, which can be used to foster student thought about advanced coursework and college/career planning. While this test is optional, there are many benefits for students, including:

- Grade 10 PSAT/NMSQT testing is an indicator of performance on the SAT college entrance exam. Students may choose to link their results on the PSAT/NMSQT to a Khan Academy account in order to receive a personalized plan for preparing for the SAT.
- The PSAT/NMSQT includes reading, math, and writing/language components that focus on the knowledge and skills that are most essential for college and career readiness and success; it is also used as a diagnostic tool to measure and follow student performance and pinpoint areas for development.
- Results can help identify each student's potential for academic success at the postsecondary level and lead to discussion about future educational plans.
- Test results will provide high school counselors with information to help identify students who may be ready to enroll and be successful in Advanced Placement and other college preparatory courses or identify students who may need additional instruction to do so.
- Every student who takes the PSAT/NMSQT is given access to multiple online resources that provide personalized SAT preparation, as well as college and career planning tools – all at no cost to the student or their family. These resources include:
 - A PSAT/NMSQT score report that includes answers with detailed explanations.
 - A personalized SAT study plan when the student links their PSAT results to the Khan Academy SAT Prep site.
 - A report that shows the Advanced Placement courses in which the student shows the opportunity to be successful.

You may visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10> for more information, including practice tests and sample questions, as well as <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/taking-the-tests/test-day-checklist/approved-calculators> for more information on the calculator policy.

If your child requires a testing accommodation, please complete the Consent Form for Accommodations Request that can be found at <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/pdf/ssd/ssd-consent-form-accommodations.pdf>. **Please sign and return the consent form as soon as possible but not later than August 15, 2020.**

The PSAT/NMSQT is a paper-based test and can only be administered on site. MyPasco Online students will be contacted by the school regarding scheduling. If you have any questions, please contact **Royce Simonds** at rsimonds@pasco.k12.fl.us or **727-774-4382**. If you would prefer your student **NOT** to participate in the PSAT/NMSQT, please contact **Royce Simonds** at rsimonds@pasco.k12.fl.us or **727-774-4382** by October 1st, 2020.

Thank you,

Principal Alondra Beatty-Woodall