

Dear Castle View High School 11th grade students and parents/guardians,

In partnership with the College Board, **CDE has announced they will pay for and support an optional PSAT NMSQT (PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) administration for 11th grade students** in place of the spring 2020 PSAT school day exam that was not administered due to school closures that resulted from the COVID-19 public health crisis. The fall 2020 administration of the PSAT NMSQT is not required by CDE. Results are intended for student and locally-determined uses only, such as predicting scores for the SAT and scholarship applications. Student scores from the fall administration of the PSAT/NMSQT will be included for National Merit Scholarship consideration. Similar to the regular spring administration of the PSAT 10, the CDE-sponsored fall PSAT/NMSQT administration is limited to 11th grade students attending public schools in Colorado (please see this [News Release](#) by CDE for more information.)

The PSAT NMSQT test administration will be offered: *October 29, 2020 (*this has been updated)
(no make up options available)

Just as with the originally scheduled test, **all students** will be **automatically** registered for this test. **So there is NOTHING that junior students need to do for the PSAT administration on October 28, 2020** except show up ready to test.

Please note, due to ongoing uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic, test dates may be canceled in the event of a local or regional closure. In the event of closure, it is not expected that additional test dates or options will be available. Replacement administrations are not being offered for the canceled CMAS exams.

Additional Information

As you are likely already aware, in addition to satisfying the district's graduation requirements, Colorado students are *also* required to demonstrate college and career readiness via one of the approved methods outlined in the chart below in order to receive a diploma from a district school. Students must provide documentation of meeting or exceeding the required level of readiness in both Mathematics and English through one of these measures:

	English	Math
Next Generation ACCUPLACER	241 on Reading or 236 on Writing	255 on Arithmetic (AR) or 236 on Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS)
Classic ACCUPLACER	62 on Reading Comprehension or 70 on Sentence Skills	61
ACT	18	19
ACT WorkKeys	Bronze+	Bronze+
Advanced Placement	2	2
ASVAB	31	31
Concurrent Enrollment	Passing Grade	Passing Grade
International Baccalaureate	4	4
SAT	470	500
District Capstone	Individualized	Individualized
Industry Certificate	Individualized	Individualized

CVHS offers several opportunities for students to access the methods above to meet graduation competency requirements. Because the SAT is currently the only universal measure (taken by ALL students) to meet these in BOTH English and math, we offer several practice opportunities to prepare

students for this exam. CVHS teachers and counselors will be using results by our 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students to continually support their academic planning and readiness to meet these graduation requirements.

Here are some of the many benefits of taking the PSAT:

- **Power Up Potential:** The PSAT/NMSQT® is given to 10th- and 11th-grade students. As part of the SAT® Suite of Assessments, it's designed to help prepare students for the SAT, college, and careers. Historically, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score higher on the SAT, on average, than those who don't take the test.
- **Connections to Scholarships:** Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade may enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Our other scholarship partners also use the PSAT/NMSQT to find students qualified to apply for their programs.
- **Free SAT Practice on Khan Academy:** Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy® is FREE for all students and the best way to prepare for the SAT. Created by Khan Academy and the makers of the SAT, Official SAT Practice gives students a practice plan built just for them. When they link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts, students get a personalized study plan based on their results on tests like the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, or PSAT™ 10, so they can focus on the skills they need to work on most.
- **Access to Advanced Placement:** Students who succeed in AP® courses are more likely to succeed in college, and they can save money through credit-granting and placement policies. The AP Potential™ tool uses SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT™ 8/9 scores to help students identify students likely to succeed in AP, and student score reports recommend AP courses that might be good matches
- **Actionable Data:** Our students get detailed PSAT Score Reports in secure, easy-to-use online score reporting portals. This data can be used for instructional planning to improve college and career readiness.

As the exam gets nearer, advisement teachers will be handing out PSAT/NMSQT preparation packets to 11th grade students. The packet offers a practice exam, detailed information regarding the National Merit Scholarship, and additional information about the exam.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

*-Stephanie Morris
CVHS Dean of Students*

Here is a list of **free resources** that are available for students so that they can continue to prepare:

[PSAT 10 Full-Length Practice Tests](#)

[SAT Full-Length Practice Tests](#)

[Daily SAT Practice App](#) (this is used for PSAT as well)

[Free PSAT prep on Khan Academy](#)

[How to Link College Board scores to Khan Academy](#)