



WE ARE THE  
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December 6, 2018

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the *Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT 8/9)*. The PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline measurement of college and career readiness for students as they prepare to enter high school. The PSAT 8/9 is the first in a series of assessments our district uses to prepare students for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) which is our required 11<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment.

The series of tests called the SAT Suite of Assessments measures critical reading, writing and language, and mathematics. Information about the assessment and how to best prepare can be found on the College Board website at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>. Included on the reverse of this document are brief descriptions of the tests. Teachers and Administrators will be reviewing PSAT 8/9 information and expectations with all 8<sup>th</sup> graders prior to our testing date.

Please discuss with your child the importance of taking this test seriously. Not only will this experience help to prepare your child for high school assessments, the results will be considered for placement into 9<sup>th</sup> grade high school courses.

On testing day, we have adjusted students' class schedules to accommodate testing. Please make sure that students are present and on-time for this important first step towards college readiness.

Student testing results will be shared with you and your child in February. Please feel free to contact your child's teachers or 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, Ms. Lindsey, if you have any questions or concerns prior to our testing date.

Sincerely,

Kokona Chrisos

Principal

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The PSAT 8/9 is broken into four (4) sections. The testing session will last approximately two (2) hours and twenty-five (25) minutes.

<p><b>SECTION 1: READING</b>  <b>Format:</b> 42 passage based questions (4 single passages and 1 pair or passages)  <b>Time:</b> 55 minutes  <b>Quick Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple choice questions based on a variety of passages including literary and informational text</li> <li>• Social science and science related passages will include informational graphics (<i>charts, tables, graphs</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SECTION 2: WRITING &amp; LANGUAGE</b>  <b>Format:</b> 40 passage based questions (4 passages)  <b>Time:</b> 30 minutes  <b>Quick Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence based reading and writing</li> <li>• Punctuation and grammar are tested</li> <li>• Questions have context</li> <li>• Some passages are paired with informational graphics (<i>charts, tables, graphs</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SECTIONS 3 &amp; 4: MATH</b>  <b>Format:</b> 2 Test Sections Math Test-Calculator and Math Test-No Calculator  38 questions (31 multiple choice, 7 grid-ins)  <b>Time:</b> 60 minutes  <b>Quick Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No calculator for 44% of the exam</li> <li>• Mostly multiple choice</li> <li>• Grid-ins are student produced written responses</li> <li>• Multi-part questions</li> <li>• Students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices (<i>problem solving, using appropriate tools strategically</i>)</li> </ul>	

For testing day, students will need to make sure they bring in:

- Two or more #2 pencils & a good eraser
- Calculator (Graphing or Scientific) *students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.*
- Something to read in the event that they complete their test early

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