

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203



To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.®

July 2020

Dear Junior Parents and Guardians,

The junior year is an important and exciting time for your child as he or she begins the college selection process. As part of that process, all juniors will take the SAT college admission examinations on a school day during the second semester of this year. The results of these tests are among the criteria that colleges use in making admission decisions and determining scholarship eligibility.

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is designed to be taken early in the junior year and is not only a practice SAT but also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT is only offered once each school year in October, and the junior year is the only time students can take the PSAT and qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. New Trier will administer the PSAT on Saturday, October 17 to juniors who register online to take the test.

The state of Illinois uses the SAT as the required college-readiness assessment of Illinois high school students. Therefore, all juniors are required to take the SAT on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The SAT focuses on the classroom skills and knowledge that are essential for college readiness and success.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS AND TEST PREP COURSES.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test)

Saturday, October 17, 2020

- **This test is optional. Juniors opting to take the PSAT must register online at <https://newtrier.revtrak.net> by August 7, 2020.**
- The PSAT is a multiple-choice test that measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills.
- PSAT scores are not reported to colleges, nor are they included on a student's transcript.
- The PSAT provides entry into competitions for important national scholarships and recognition programs such as National Merit Scholarships, National Achievement Scholars, and National Hispanic Scholars. In addition, students designated as National Merit Semi-Finalists or Commended Students often receive preferential admission to selective colleges and universities even if they have not earned a National Merit Scholarship or Finalist status.
- The cost of the test is \$17.

IL SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (ISA)

Monday, March 1, 2021 – Friday, March 5, 2021

- The ISA test is a state requirement for high school graduation, and all juniors must take it during the testing window.
- The ISA includes three sections: earth science, life science, and physical science.
- Students enrolled in a science class will take the ISA during their science class.

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- Students not enrolled in a science class, will take the ISA after school March 11, 2021. March 11 is an early release day and won't interfere with athletics or other after school activities.

STATE SAT

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

- The SAT consists of one essay and three multiple-choice tests: Reading, Writing and Language, and Mathematics.
- The score may be sent to colleges if a student requests it to be reported; it is not included on a student's transcript.
- The SAT test is a state requirement for high school graduation, and all juniors must take it on the official test date.
- The state offers this test free of charge; students do not need to register.

TEST PREPARATION COURSES

The best preparation for college admission tests is a rigorous curriculum, which New Trier provides. Historically, New Trier students have done very well on both the ACT and SAT due to the breadth and depth of the curriculum and course offerings. However, some students may benefit from a formal test preparation course. Due to the state-mandated SAT test in April, we have modified the New Trier test preparation course to include both the ACT and SAT. This fall and next winter, two options for ACT and SAT preparation courses will be available on campus, one after school and the other on weekends, both of which are comparable in quality of instruction. **It is strongly recommended, however, that juniors wait until the winter to take a test preparation course so that they will have covered most of the subject matter on college admission tests, in particular, the ACT.**

After-School ACT & SAT Preparation Course

Official sign-up and publication of schedules/offerings will be shared at the start of the school year.

For additional information about the New Trier ACT & SAT preparation course, please contact Michael O'Donovan at 847-784-6548 or odonovam@nths.net.

Weekend PSAT, ACT, and SAT Preparation Courses

One-to-One Learning Center, an educational organization in Northfield, Illinois, which has provided college admission test preparation courses and tutorials to students on the North Shore and in the Chicago area for over forty years, offers weekend PSAT, ACT, and SAT preparation courses. The course is taught by experienced, certified teachers. The course schedules are attached. **For additional information about the One-to-One Learning Services preparation courses, please contact Amy Berland at 847-501-3300.**

You will find complete information about all of these test preparation courses attached. If you have questions about registration for college admission tests, please contact our Testing Coordinator, Peg Stevens, at 847-784-2259 or stevensp@nths.net.

Warmly,

Chimille Dillard, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction