

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

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



July 2018

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 ACT and 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. Therefore, it is important for all juniors to take a practice version of both of these college admission tests at the appropriate times.

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 Wednesday, October 10 to all juniors.

For the past two years, the state of Illinois has been using 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 9. The SAT focuses on the classroom skills and knowledge that are essential for college readiness and success.

In addition, New Trier will administer a District ACT to all junior students on February 20 at no cost. The ACT is designed to be taken at the end of the junior year in order to coincide with the completion of eleventh-grade courses in English, mathematics, and science.

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

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test) Wednesday, October 10, 2018

- 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.
- All juniors are expected to take the PSAT on October 10.
- The cost of the test is included in the student fee bill, and students do not need to register.

DISTRICT ACT

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

- The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science.
- The score may be sent to colleges if a student requests it to be reported; it is not included on a student's transcript.
- All juniors are expected to take the District ACT on February 20.
- New Trier offers this test free of charge, and students do not need to register.

STATE SAT

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

- 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, and 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 second semester 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

The after-school ACT & SAT preparation course has been taught by New Trier faculty members in the English, mathematics, and science departments for over twenty years. The course includes nineteen hours of classroom instruction, covering all sections of both tests, and provides three full-length practice exams. Classes meet for five weeks, four days a week, from 3:40 to 4:40 p.m. The cost of the course is \$375; registration may be done by mail or online at <https://newtrier.revtrak.net>. The course schedules for both the fall and winter sessions are attached; **the deadline for registration for the fall session is August 29. For additional information about the New Trier ACT & SAT preparation course, please contact Michael O'Donovan at 847-784-6548 or odonovam@nth.net.**

Weekend ACT Preparation Course

The weekend ACT preparation course is offered by One-to-One Learning Services, 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. The course is taught by experienced, certified teachers and includes twenty-one hours of instruction, two full-length practice exams, and four homework tests for the ACT course. Classes meet for eight weeks on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. The cost of the ACT preparation course is \$400. The course schedules are attached; **the deadline for registration for the fall-winter session is November 9. For additional information about the One-to-One Learning Services ACT preparation course, please contact Amy Berland at 847-501-3300.**

Weekend PSAT and SAT Preparation Courses

One-to-One Learning Center offers a weekend PSAT preparation course and a one-day PSAT workshop in the fall as well as an SAT workshop in the spring. **The deadline for registration for the PSAT review course is August 17; the deadline for the PSAT workshop is September 21. For additional information about the One-to-One Learning Services PSAT review course and workshop, please contact Amy Berland at 847-501-3300.**

You will find complete information about all of these test preparation courses attached and on the Testing Center webpage. 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.

Best regards,



Chimille Dillard
Director of Curriculum and Instruction