

Dear Parents of Juniors:

On Wednesday, October 12, all juniors at Bishop Kelly will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test (NMSQT). The PSAT/NMSQT provides students with practice for the SAT. Research shows that students who take the PSAT increase their SAT scores significantly. The average increase in score is 120 points. This exam is the qualifier for the National Merit Scholarships.

The benefits of taking the PSAT/MNSQT are:

- Improves teaching and learning for both students and educators: reports will help identify skill strengths and gaps
- Provides access to My College QuickStart: a personalized college and career planning tool which helps students search for colleges, explore majors and careers as a personalized SAT study plan
- Identifies potential success in AP courses
- Prepares students for the SAT
- Provides entry to National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions as well as other scholarship and recognition programs

If students choose to participate in the College Board Student Search Service, colleges, scholarship programs and educational opportunity organizations will send information about educational and financial aid opportunities they offer.

Students should review the PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide. The students were given this guide during their Theology classes September 29/30. The guide is full of information to read prior to the test. There are tips for taking the test as well as a full length practice test so that the students are familiar with the test questions and format. The practice test will help students to understand the directions and be familiar with the types of questions to expect. Preparation does make a difference! Learn more about PSAT and SAT resources on their website: www.collegeboard.com.

Test day will start promptly at 8 a.m. and end at approximately 11:30 a.m. It is very important to arrive on time. Students who are late may not be admitted to the testing room. Students who are absent on test day, or miss a portion of the test for an appointment, will not be able to make up the test and have it scored with the school.

Students should bring: student ID number, two sharpened #2 pencils with good erasers, a calculator, and a snack. Please encourage your student to get plenty of rest the night before and eat a healthy breakfast so that they can do their very best on the test.

Yours For Excellence in Catholic Education,

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