Dear Sophomores, Juniors, Parents and Guardians:  

When students begin their junior year, standardized tests become essential to the college admissions process. The first standardized test many juniors take is the PSAT. This test serves two basic functions. First, it is a shortened practice form of the SAT Test, which helps students see their strengths and weaknesses before they actually take the SAT. Second, it qualifies top-scoring juniors for the National Merit Scholarship program.

Sophomores also have the opportunity to take the PSAT. Taking this exam as a sophomore would give a student more practice, but it is important to remember that this is a junior-based test. Sophomores do not have the extra year of math and English anticipated by the test’s questions so the scores are usually lower than in junior year.

Students have only one opportunity each year to take the PSAT at OPHS. Here is a list of important dates:

- Students will have an opportunity to sign up and pay for the PSAT from **Wednesday September 8th - Tuesday, September 14th**. The cost of the PSAT exam is $30.00 and is payable by check (made out to Orchard Park High School).
- The PSAT will be given on **Saturday, October 16th from approximately 7:30 am until noon** at Orchard Park High School. Please note, there is no alternate testing date available at OPHS.

**Why take the test?**

- Practice for the SAT
- Get feedback about critical academic skills
- Get admissions information from colleges
- Enter National Merit Scholarship competition (Juniors)

Once the PSAT is over, many juniors decide to take the SAT toward the end of their junior year in March, May or June. Orchard Park High School is a test center in May and again in November. The SAT is a four hour test that measures college readiness skills. While students will register for the PSAT directly with Mrs. Montesano, SAT registration can only be completed online at [https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register) the SAT, it is essential to pay attention to deadlines in order to register and/or avoid a late fee. Students who wish to use their approved testing modifications (ex. extended-time) must also see their counselor to apply for these accommodations.

Students can take preparatory classes for the SAT at OPHS through the Community Education program. There are also many other locations in Western New York that offer SAT/ACT test preparation and various review opportunities online. Information is available online at the School Counseling website and in your student’s House Office. The cost of these courses varies greatly.

Many students also take the ACT (American College Testing Program). Depending on a student’s strengths, he/she may perform better on the SAT or the ACT. The School Counseling Department recommends that students practice with both exams before taking one or the other. Specific questions or concerns regarding the SAT or ACT can be answered through the online registration bulletins or your child’s counselor. Students and parents should check with each potential institution to see which assessments are required for admission.

Sincerely,

Denice Montesano, SAT/PSAT testing coordinator and the OPHS School Counseling Department  
dmontesano@opschools.org
PSAT (Pre Scholastic Aptitude Test) 2021--REGISTRATION INFO

The PSAT measures skills that are important for success in college in areas such as critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing. It is modeled after the SAT that many students take before applying to colleges.

**DATE**

**Saturday, October 16th, 2021** Students should arrive at the High School no later than 7:30 a.m. on test date and should be released between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 pm.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is the **ONLY** day the PSAT will be given at OPHS.

**WHO**

All current juniors and sophomores may take the PSAT, but it is designed as a junior-based test!

**FEE**

$30.00 (check made out to Orchard Park High School).

**SIGN-UP**

**Wednesday September 8th - Tuesday, September 14th.** Students should put a check in an envelope. Please tuck in the envelope flap. PLEASE DO NOT SEAL THE ENVELOPE. Please write the following information NEATLY on the outside of the envelope:

Last name, first name

Grade

Homeroom

Counselor

Phone #

The locker right outside of Mrs. Montesano’s room (329) will be used as a drop box (it will be clearly labeled). Stop by at any time during the day and deposit the registration envelope and check. **Students** will receive a confirmation email at their opshallows address within 48 hours after submitting registration materials. Please follow up with Mrs. Montesano in room 329 if you do not receive a confirmation email.

**AS TESTS MUST BE ORDERED BY SEPTEMBER 15, LATE REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**GUIDE**

A student preparation guide for the PSAT and a guide to the National Merit Scholarship Program are available at [https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf). If you desire a paper copy of the guide, you will be able to pick one up from Mrs. Montesano when you turn in your registration materials.

**I.D.**

Students must present Orchard Park High School student ID to enter the exam.

**CREATE AN ACCOUNT**

A College Board account is the only way to access your PSAT results online. You will eventually use the same account to register for the SAT, access your scores and send them to colleges. Additionally, an account lets you manage your personal college list, save your scholarship searches, compare costs at colleges, and more. You may already have an account if you have taken an AP exam. If not, create one now. Student accounts must be affiliated with OPHS so that the College Board can properly authenticate scores for online reporting purposes. It takes about twenty to thirty minutes to establish this account for the first time. To get started, visit this site: [WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG) Click on “Sign Up” and follow the steps to set up the account.

**SCHOOL CODE:** 334325  
**TESTING CENTER CODE:** 33-738

**GET SCORES**

Students can request a password reset or recover their username by using their email address if needed. Once logged in, students should click on My Account.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The College Board does not allow us to retain student test books after the test date. Read about all PSAT policies here: [https://www.collegeboard.org/](https://www.collegeboard.org/)