

# Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202

We prepare learners for the future.



## Administration Center

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August 29, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter includes important updates to the state's standardized testing process that will affect high schools.

Since the 2000-01 school year, the State of Illinois has paid for a college admission test for all high school juniors as part of the State's accountability process for high schools. As we shared last year, Illinois is now using the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) as the state-funded, standardized test required of all juniors.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, all 11<sup>th</sup> grade Illinois students must take the SAT, including writing, this spring on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, during the regular school day in order to be promoted to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and graduate high school. In addition, student scores on the SAT must be placed on the student's permanent record and entered on the student's transcript. To provide the best testing environment for this important college admission test, freshmen, sophomores, and seniors will not attend school on April 10, 2018.

In preparation for the SAT, District 202 will administer the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, PSAT, to all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on October 11, 2017, during the regular school day to help all students demonstrate their full potential on the SAT as juniors. Students will arrive at school at the regular time, but will be dismissed at approximately 10:30 a.m. Seniors will not attend on October 11, 2017.

On October 11, 2017, freshmen will take the PSAT 8/9, and sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT, National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT/NMSQT will prepare juniors for the SAT that they will take on April 10, 2018, and makes them eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships that began in 1955.

As a reminder, high school students do not take the PARCC test. However, high school students taking their first Biology course will take the Illinois Science Assessment in the spring of 2018.

In the meantime, please feel free to talk to your high school guidance counselor for more information about post-secondary planning, test registration, or other academic questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Dan McDonnell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Dan McDonnell  
Director, High School Curriculum and Instruction