

October 8, 2009

Dear Parents:

Wednesday, October 14th is the school day scheduled this year for standardized testing of freshmen, sophomores and juniors at Archbishop Murphy High School (**no school for seniors that day**). We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the current testing program at AMHS. During your student's years at AMHS, s/he will take the PLAN assessment freshman year and the PSAT both sophomore and junior years. These exams have been developed by the two leaders in college entrance exams, ACT (American College Testing program) and College Board.

PLAN is a *curriculum-based achievement test* which assesses *student progress* in the areas of math, science, reading and writing in order to provide an early indicator of college readiness. The questions are designed to reflect what the student has been learning in the classroom. While PLAN is normed for sophomores, we give the test freshman year since our students are on a college prep track from the time they begin at AMHS. An interest inventory, which freshmen completed last week, is included to help students understand and explore the wide range of career options open to them. In addition, PLAN serves as a practice test for the college entrance exam commonly known as "the ACT" which students may choose to take outside of the regular school day in the spring of the junior year and/or the fall of the senior year. While some colleges and universities state a preference for the ACT or the SAT, most will accept either exam or both.

In contrast, the PSAT is an *aptitude test* which assesses *academic potential* in the areas of critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills that have been developed over many years, both in and out of school. The PSAT provides students with an early indication of their educational progress relative to the skill sets and aptitudes that contribute to academic success in college. While the PSAT was developed by the College Board specifically for *juniors* as a preparatory test for its college entrance exam, the Scholastic Aptitude Test, it is frequently given to sophomores as well. For this reason, scaled score results are reported in percentiles comparing sophomore test takers with other sophomores and junior test takers with other juniors. In addition to being a practice test for the SAT, the PSAT also serves as the high school qualifying exam for **juniors** in the National Merit Scholarship Program, the National Achievement Scholarship Program for outstanding Black Americans, and the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

In January, results of the PLAN test and the PSAT will be shared with students and parents, but they **are not submitted by ACT, College Board or AMHS to any colleges or universities**. Freshmen may **choose** to participate in the PLAN Educational Opportunity Service, a free service which allows students to receive information about educational, scholarship, career, and financial aid opportunities from colleges, governmental agencies, ACT and other organizations. Reports to these organizations will indicate the students' score ranges but not exact scores. Sophomores and juniors may **choose** to participate in the College Board Student Search Service which provides the students' self-reported GPA, core course selection, potential college major, but **not** test scores, to colleges and universities that offer degrees in the students' areas of interest.

Over the last few days, freshmen, sophomores and juniors received information and study guides for PLAN or PSAT. In addition, juniors were provided with a “to do list,” a copy of which is included in the Fall Senior-Junior Parent College Night handout from October 5. Click [here](#) for the handout. Scroll down to pages 12 and 13 for the junior “to do list.”

Students have been instructed to report to their assigned testing rooms at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14th. Freshman PLAN takers will test in Old Main; sophomore and junior PSAT takers will test in Heath Hall. The students’ room assignments are based upon their English teacher/class period. Click [here](#) for the room schedule.

Students need to bring two #2 pencils and a scientific or graphing calculator. No food or beverage (including water) is allowed in the classroom based upon testing agency rules. Your student should get a good night’s rest the night before the exam and eat a balanced breakfast that includes protein.

Students will complete their testing at approximately 12:00 noon and will be released from school. Please make transportation arrangements for your children.

If you have any questions, please contact your student’s counselor by phone or e-mail.

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2009 PSAT and PLAN Locations

(Please post in your classroom)

PSAT

English Period/Teacher	PSAT Proctor	TESTING Assistant	ROOM Assignment	# students	Grade
2 nd / Leonard	J. Moir	Y. Moir	703	24	Juniors
2 nd / Ferragamo	L. Ryen	D. Ward	702	28	Juniors
3 rd / Zellner	S. Arland	G. Turcott	704	27	Juniors
4 th / Walsh	B. Mock	K. Towey	705	23	Juniors
4 th / Leonard	A. Crane	K. Alkire	706	21	Juniors
4 th / Zellner	M. Wright	C. Wright	701	20	Juniors
				143	
1 st / Kelp	D. Moynihan	D. Kelp	707	28	Sophomores
1 st / Ward	C. Comunale	J. Nicholas	708	27	Sophomores
2 nd / Kelp	B. Gilchrist-Smith	J. Nicholas	710	27	Sophomores
2 nd / Ward	R. Ramian	R. White	709	28	Sophomores
2 nd / Zellner	G. Wellenstein	N. Roberge	808	22	Sophomores
6 th / Zellner	J. Glass	D. Lawrence	804	22	Sophomores
				154	

PLAN

English Period/Teacher	PLAN Proctor	Plan TESTING Assistant	ROOM Assignment	# students	GRADE
1 st / Callaghan	R. Brodniak	K. Ferragamo	402	29	Freshmen
3 rd / Callaghan	M. Ames	M. Stubrud	201	22	Freshmen
3 rd / Ferragamo	M. Callaghan	K. Kenny	208	26	Freshmen
4 th / Ward	J. Leonard	N. Gallagher	207	24	Freshmen
4 th / Callaghan	J. Clapp	D. Smith	206	25	Freshmen
5 th / Ward	D. Walsh	J. Zellner	202	27	Freshmen
				154	