



Getchell Families

The 2020-2021 PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th. This test is the screening test for high school students who wish to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program. All sophomores and juniors are eligible to take this test, however; only juniors are eligible for the National Merit award. The National Merit Scholarship Program is a United States academic scholarship competition for recognition and university scholarships administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Testing will take place starting at 7:30 on the MG campus. This test will take approximately 4 hours. There are a limited number of testing slots and this is on a first come first serve basis. Registration opens on January 6th and the deadline to register is January 22nd. The cost for this test is \$17 for each student. Please see the cashier in the EF building on the MG campus to sign up for this test and please remember to wear a mask.

**Due to the current Covid situation testing will follow all district protocols.

- Testing will take place in the gym to offer a larger space to ensure a 6ft distance between students and staff
- All students and staff complete the daily attestation prior to arrival
- All students and staff will wear a mask at all time
- Outside Gym doors will be open to allow for good airflow
- Hand sanitizer and extra masks will be available in several locations
- All desks and chairs will be sanitized prior to student arrival
- Everyone will maintain 6ft distancing at all times

A copy of the Student Guide will be given to each student that signs up for the test. You may also visit this link to see an on-line version:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-nmsqt-student-guide.pdf>

Here is a snapshot about the Scholarship Program. To find out more information please go to the following link:

https://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/images/gid2/editor_documents/guide_to_the_national_merit_scholarship_program.pdf?gid=2&pgid=61

What qualifies you to be a National Merit Scholar?

In order to be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program, a student must: 1) take the PSAT/NMSQT during his or her 3rd year (junior year) of high school 2) be enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled) and plan to enroll in college full time by the fall after his or her high school

The National Merit® Scholarship Program, conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships.

The competition is open to all U.S. high school students who meet published participation requirements. Scholarship winners are chosen on the basis of their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

Currently, over 1.5 million students in about 21,000 high schools enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program each year. Some 50,000 entrants qualify for program recognition, and approximately 8,700 outstanding students receive scholarships for college undergraduate study. The awards, valued at about \$40 million, are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by several hundred corporate organizations and higher education institutions

Some schools encourage their sophomore students to take the PSAT/NMSQT for guidance purposes; however, if these students are spending four years in grades 9 through 12, they must take the test again when they are juniors to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program.