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August 31, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Student:

The ***Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)*** is an important assessment that is given to our tenth-grade students as a practice test and to our junior students as the official qualifying test for *National Merit Scholarships*. Those students who are *National Merit Scholarship* finalists, based on their *PSAT* scores, receive scholarships to colleges that include full tuition, room and board, fees, etc.

The *PSAT/NMSQT* measures academic skills in three main areas: *Critical Reading*, *Mathematics*, and *Writing*. High-scoring juniors can earn scholarships and academic recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation which also recognizes outstanding Black, American students when they enter the National Achievement Scholarship Program by taking the *PSAT/NMSQT*. All students who take this test get feedback on improving their academic skills, so the *PSAT/NMSQT* helps students to be better prepared, not only for the *SAT*, but also for the *ACT*. In addition, every student who takes the *PSAT/NMSQT* has free access to an online program called *My College QuickStart*, a personalized online college planning kit and *MyRoad*, a comprehensive major and career exploration tool. To learn more about the *PSAT/NMSQT*, visit www.nationalmerit.org.

The ***PSAT/NMSQT*** will be administered at **Oxford High School** on **Saturday, October 17, 2009**, at **8:00 a.m.** on the first floor of the **Media Center**. The cost is **\$15.00**. Students who want to take the *PSAT/NMSQT* must bring their checks or cash to **Ms. Knight** by **September 11, 2009**. Checks should be made out to Oxford High School.

If you should have any questions concerning this very important assessment, please do not hesitate to email me at gknight.oh@oxford.k12.al.us or call me at 241-3172.

Sincerely,

Glenda Knight
Senior Counselor

