



Dr. James M. Gay
Superintendent

CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 230

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September 13, 2016

Dear Parents,

District 230 uses a multitude of assessment approaches to measure both student and school success. Within your child's classroom you will see both formal and informal assessment practices that allow the teacher to determine the best instructional strategies for learning in their classroom. As a district we implement similar practices. Some of the assessments given at the district level are mandated by state statute while others are used to inform students of their progress towards post secondary goals. Please note the dates and times that are important for your child. In preparation of test dates it is important for students to get plenty of rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and to bring the essential tools for the assessment (pencil, pen, headphones, calculator). Thank you in advance for being a great support to your child and helping each of them to do their very best.

The Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Legislatures have ruled that the SAT test will be used as a measure for college and career readiness as mandated by school code. It has also been determined that the high school level will no longer give the PARCC exam. In order to best prepare D230 students for the SAT test, the SAT suite of tests designed to measure a student's progress from an initial test in 8th grade to the culminating SAT will be used. D230 acknowledges that this is a transition from the ACT sequence previously used, but are confident that the rigor of the D230 curriculum and instructional practices prepares D230 students for the SAT.

The D230 assessment plan for student growth, accountability, and student success is as follows:

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) - paper based

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 - 8:00 AM START TIME - NO LATE START

All Juniors will be tested beginning at 8:00 am. Freshman, Sophomores and Seniors will follow their regular schedule.

This test serve two purposes..

1. This PSAT is designed to be a Practice SAT. The testing times and topics are closely aligned to the SAT and scores earned are predictive of future SAT scores.
2. Students that say "yes" to the Student Search Service when they fill out their answer sheet will be screened for the [National Merit Scholarship Program](#). The National Merit Scholarship program designates students as Commended, Semifinalists, and Finalists. Scholarship opportunities are available to each of these levels. Please visit nationalmerit.org for more details.

The PSAT/NMSQT has the following components:

Component	Time Allotted	Number of Questions/Tasks
Reading	60 minutes	47
Writing and Language	35 minutes	44
Math	70 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 minute No Calculator • 45 minute Calculator 	48
Total	2 hours 45 minutes	139

College Board has partnered with [Khan Academy](#) to deliver preparation materials. Khanacademy.org has practice tests, practice sets, and the capability to build a personalized practice progression from PSAT results.

PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT - paper based

April TBD, 2017

Freshman, Sophomore and Junior students will be tested; Senior students will not be in attendance. We encourage the Seniors to complete deficient service learning hours or complete college preparation activities on this date. Students will be in attendance from 8 am until 12:45pm. Zero hour will not meet.

- Freshman will take the PSAT 8/9
- Sophomores will take the PSAT 10. The PSAT 10 is the spring version of the PSAT/NMSQT however it does not tie itself to the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sophomores should use this opportunity to prepare for their October 2017 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT).
- Juniors will take the State Mandated SAT exam. SAT scores are accepted as a college entrance exam at all major colleges and universities.

The PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 are closely aligned to the SAT and scores earned are predictive.

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) - computer based

March 1 - April 28, 2017 - Specific date will be shared with you by your students home school and Biology Teacher

The Illinois State Board of Education requires that the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) be given to High School students enrolled in a Biology course. D230 Students enrolled in the following courses will take the assessment within their Biology Course in March. Details regarding the specific date will come from your child's Science teacher.

- Biology
- Biology Honors

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

The following is the Advanced Placement Exam Schedule. Students interested in taking an AP exam must register for the exam no later than **March 1, 2017**. For more information please contact the guidance department at your home school.

		Morning (8 AM)	Afternoon (12 PM)
Week 1	Monday, May 1	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology
	Tuesday, May 2	Computer Science A Spanish Language & Culture	Physics 1: Algebra-based
	Wednesday, May 3	English Literature & Composition	
	Thursday, May 4	US Government & Politics	
	Friday, May 5	German Language & Culture US History	
Week 2	Monday, May 8	Biology Music Theory	Physics C: Mechanics <i>Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism begins at 2pm</i>
	Tuesday, May 9	Calculus AB Calculus BC	French Language & Culture
	Wednesday, May 10	English Language & Composition	Macroeconomics
	Thursday, May 11	World History	Statistics
	Friday, May 12	Human Geography Microeconomics	European History Latin

If you have additional questions regarding any aspect of the assessment process please do not hesitate to contact your home school's guidance office.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Rueter- Cox

Director of Assessment & Data

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