



Palmyra Area High School

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your 11th grade student is quickly approaching several very important decisions within the next two years. Of course, post high school plans are at the top of the list! We want to take this opportunity to inform you of upcoming testing and guidance information. It is our hope that you encourage your son or daughter to consider taking the tests and/or utilizing the resources available to assist in their career growth. **Please note that all of the information in this letter and many additional resources can be found at www.pasd.us. Please select High School, then Guidance.**

***The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be given at Palmyra High School on October 17, 2020, at 7:45 AM.** The PSAT measures reading, writing and language, and math skills developed over many years, both in and out of school. It provides practice for the SAT exam, and is the first step for juniors in qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition for scholarships and recognition. It also gives students a chance to see how their skills compare with those of other students who will apply to college. Test takers are given the option to place their name in a pool of college bound students interested in receiving admission and financial aid information from colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies. The cost for the test is **\$30**. If your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, he or she can test at no cost. Students can sign up in the Guidance Office using the attached registration form. **The deadline to register is September 15, 2020.**

***The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)** will be given at Palmyra High School on **November 9, 2020**. All 11th grade students are encouraged to take this test as it provides valuable information that aids in the career development process. Seniors thinking about a military career are also encouraged to take this test. The ASVAB helps students match their interests and abilities to both civilian and military careers. The test is helpful for students whether or not they plan to enter the military. A permission slip will be made available on the Guidance webpage as we near the test date. An announcement will be available on the daily bulletin in Powerschool.

***The SAT exam** will be given at Palmyra High School on **March 13, 2021**. The SAT consists of three sections: reading, writing and language, math, and the optional SAT Essay. Many colleges and universities require that students report the scores of this test as part of the application for admission. Many college bound students take this test twice during their junior year. Students may take the test on any of seven dates throughout the 2020/2021 school year if they are willing to travel to another local school where the test is given. Information about the test dates, test sites, and the test itself is located in the Guidance Office or online at www.collegeboard.com. If your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, he or she can test at no cost. Contact the school counselor for more information.

*The Guidance Office has information and registration material for the **ACT Assessment**, another college admission and placement test. Many colleges and universities accept scores from either the SAT or ACT. The ACT Assessment includes four tests of educational development in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. There is an optional writing section. The ACT is given on seven dates throughout the 2020/2021 school year at several locations in central Pennsylvania. Visit www.act.org for further information about this test. Check with colleges of interest to determine which test scores they accept. If your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, he or she can test at no cost. Contact the school counselor for more information.

*College admission representative visits have been suspended at Palmyra High School due to the pandemic. We have posted contact information from various admissions representatives on our webpage so students can contact them directly to set up informational virtual meetings.

<https://www.palmyraportal.org/website/module.php?deptid=12&schoolid=2766&mid=4171>

*Some college scholarships are available to juniors. We list available scholarships we become aware of on the Guidance Department webpage. We encourage juniors and seniors to review this list regularly as we add scholarships frequently throughout the year. The direct link to the Current Scholarships page can be found here: <https://www.palmyraportal.org/website/module.php?deptid=12&schoolid=2766&mid=2869>.

Our Guidance Office staff consists of four School Counselors and Mrs. Cathy Williams, Guidance Secretary. Our office houses reference books and online information on colleges, technical schools, military, and careers, as well as college admissions testing. Students are divided among the counselors according to alphabet: Students with last names starting with A through E are with Mrs. Jennifer Kulas; F through K are with Mr. Dave Watson; L through R are with Mr. Aaron Walny; and S through Z are with Miss Teresa Markulike. We would like to emphasize that students are very welcome to ask to see their counselor at any time during the year for academic, career, and personal concerns or questions.

Please feel free to contact anyone in our office if you have any questions or concerns or would like to set up a meeting with your student's counselor and/or teachers. We look forward to assisting your junior throughout the last two years of high school!

Sincerely,

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