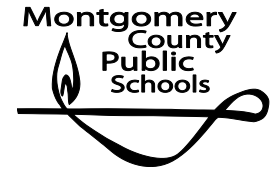


# MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL



**A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence**  
51 University Boulevard East • Silver Spring, MD 20901  
Montgomery County Public Schools

Main Office – (301) 649-2800  
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September 3, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, is **College Readiness Day** at Montgomery Blair. On this day, all students will participate in an exam or activity to help prepare them for college from 7:45 to 11:30 am. This is an important day for all students and staff. Please remind your son/daughter of the importance of attending school on this day. There will be a Score Back Night held in January for students and parents to hear more information about the College Readiness examination process. The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to provide **free** online practice. Every student should visit [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org) to establish an account.

## **9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, **except** for ESOL 1-2 and METS students, will take the official PSAT 8/9 on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. The PSAT 8/9 is a two hour and twenty –five minute exam developed by College Board ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) to prepare them for future college readiness exams such as PSAT/NSMQT, SAT, ACT and ACCUPLACER. There will be a **\$12 charge** for each student to sit for the exam. The registration form plus payment will be collected in the **Main Office** during lunch September. **Online credit card payments may be made from September 5 through 27 at:**

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=BY308> (A 3.75% convenience fee will be added).

## **10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

All 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, except for ESOL 1-2 and METS students, will take the **PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)** developed by College Board. The PSAT/NMSQT is a two hour and forty-five minute exam that measures academic abilities important in college work. It consists of two 25-minute math sections, two 25-minute verbal sections, and one writing skills section. **MCPS will pay** for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take the PSAT. Our goal is to have **100 percent** participation of our 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

***Important: To comply with the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act (CCRCCA) of 2013, 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, except for ESOL 1-2 and METS students, are required to take a MSDE approved college readiness assessment (ACT, SAT, ACCUPLACER) by the end of Grade 11.***

Eleventh grade students will have two options to choose from. Below is a description of the two options.

1. Take the College Board **PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)**. Students who take the PSAT in their junior year may qualify for the *National Merit*, *National Achievement*, or *National Hispanic Scholar Programs*. Juniors who take the PSAT, **will be required to take the SAT or ACT by the end of their eleventh-grade year**. Students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade will have to pay a \$17.00 fee for the PSAT. The registration form and payment will be collected in the **Main Office** during lunch **September 5 – 27, 2019**. **Online credit card payments may be made at:** <https://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=BY308> (A 3.75% convenience fee will be added).
2. 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who do not take the PSAT will have an opportunity to take the **ACCUPLACER**. The ACCUPLACER was designed to assess students' knowledge in math, reading, and writing. Over 1,500 higher educational institutions administer ACCUPLACER tests as part of their enrollment process. This **will** fulfill their CCRCCA requirement.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

All 12<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to attend school on College Readiness Day. The Counseling Department has planned a number of college/career activities for seniors on this day. These activities include a college fair (with over 120 college representatives attending), essay writing sessions, SAT Prep sessions, and scholarship/financial aid information sessions. We want every senior to take advantage of the opportunity and participate in these events.

I look forward to having all of our students participate in College Readiness Day. If you have questions regarding any of this information, contact the Main Office at 301-649-2800.

Sincerely,  
Renay Johnson, Principal