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 to establish an account.

9th Grade
All 9th 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) to prepare them for future college readiness exams such as PSAT/NMSQT, 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).

10th Grade
All 10th 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 10th graders to take the PSAT. Our goal is to have 100 percent participation of our 10th graders.

11th Grade
Important: To comply with the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act (CCRCCA) of 2013, 11th 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 11th 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. 11th 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.

12th Grade
All 12th 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