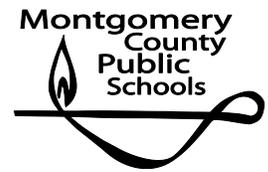


MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL



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

Main Office – (301) 649-2800
FAX Number – (301) 649-2830

Principal's Office – (301) 649-2806
Academy Office – (301) 649-2880

September 6, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 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 11, 2017. 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/NSMQT, SAT, ACT and ACCUPLACER. There will be a \$10 charge for each student to sit for the exam. The registration form plus payment will be collected in the **Counseling Department** during lunch September 6 - 22, 2017. **Online credit card payments may be made at: <http://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/>(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 \$16.00 fee for the PSAT. The registration form plus payment will be collected in the **Counseling Department** during lunch **September 6 - 22, 2017**. **Online credit card payments may be made at: <http://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/>(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 Counseling Office at 301-649-2810.

Sincerely,
Renay Johnson, Principal