

## The Counselor is IN!

### PSAT Results



PSAT results have arrived, and the Counselor will be giving back the results as well as explanations to the Secondary 2 and 3 students who took them on Monday, Jan. 10. Be on the lookout for your children bringing them home.

My College QuickStart is an online college and career planning kit available free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. It is powered by their responses to the test and provides personalized information that helps students take their next steps toward college:

- My Online Score Report—an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, their answers, and the correct answers with answer explanations
- My SAT Study Plan—a customized SAT study plan based on students' PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice
- My Personality—a detailed personality test that helps students learn about themselves and discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests
- My Major & Career Matches—extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now
- My College Matches—a starter list of colleges based on students' home state and indicated choice of major

Access is available using the access code printed on your child's paper score report, and the tool can be utilized throughout high school. Using My College QuickStart together with your child is a great way to introduce and guide your child through important aspects of the college-going process. Visit [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart).

Of course the big question from parents is how did my child(ren) do? What's a good PSAT score?

So here is some basic info about that PSAT score.

You'll get three scores on your PSAT score report, one for each section – Critical Reading, Math and Writing. Those scores will range from a 20 on the lowest end to an 80 on the highest end, which directly correlates to the SAT's score range of a 200 on the lowest end to an 800 on the highest end. Most high schoolers will be in the middle somewhere.

#### **Average 11th grade PSAT Scores for 2009:**

- **Critical Reading:** 48
- **Math:** 48
- **Writing:** 45

### **Average 10th grade PSAT Scores for 2009:**

- **Critical Reading:** 43
- **Math:** 45
- **Writing:** 42

Also listed on your PSAT score report is your Selection Index. This score is the sum of all three PSAT sections. So for instance if your scores were the same as the average 11th grade PSAT scores for 2009, your Selection Index would be a 141.

The PSAT Selection Index is used in part to qualify your child (if you're an American citizen) for the National Merit Scholarship, which is why the PSAT is also known as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT).. Each state has a minimum index score and the lowest is a 201.

The PSAT is designed to demonstrate how a student will fare on the real SAT. A better question to ask instead of, "What's a good PSAT score", is "What's a Good SAT score?" The PSAT is an important test for qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship, but it won't get you into college. If your PSAT score is well below the national averages, then now is the time to prepare for the SAT. A student's SAT score, while important, is only one aspect of being accepted at universities. Other things that are considered are GPA, courses taken, extracurriculars, volunteer hours, involvement, etc.).

### **University Visit**

**We have another university visit** coming to our campus on Wednesday, Jan. 12. The Chinese University of Hong Kong will be presenting to our students.