

Hawk's Nest
By: Nannette Mills

Tenth and eleventh grade students at Hodgdon High School experienced the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October of 2007. This test measures the skills your student has developed over the course of his education, such as:

- Critical reading skills
- Math problem-solving skills
- Writing Skills

The PSAT/NMSQT is the best preparation for the SAT. Students take the test in eleventh grade to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's scholarship programs. Students can also benefit from taking the test in the tenth grade and sooner because they'll get personalized feedback on the academic skills needed for college. By taking the test before eleventh grade, students have more time to develop these skills and to begin the college planning process.

In addition to assessing critical academic skills, the PSAT/NMSQT provides an opportunity for all students to:

- Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test: the test uses similar questions and the same directions
- Qualify for scholarships (if your student is in eleventh grade)
- Compare scores with other college-bound students around the country
- Forecast SAT scores.
- Get free information from colleges and scholarship programs through the Student Search Service
- Use My College QuickStart to plan ahead for college and a career

Your student has developed the skills measured by the PSAT/NMSQT over many years, both in and out of school. Taking challenging academic courses and reading widely during the school years is the best way for your student to get ready (www.collegboard.com).

The students at Hodgdon High School were privileged to have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT this past October. The student scores were reported to HHS in December and each student received a Score Report *Plus*, which

includes not only itemized feedback on test questions, but advice on improving his skills as well. What an amazing resource! For each section of the test (critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills), your student received personalized skills feedback based on his performance.

Ask your 10th or 11th grade student to bring you his/her personalized Score Report from their advisory binder and log onto: www.collegeboard.com/quickstart, an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit available **free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT**. This useful tool incorporates student responses that were provided when they took the test, and it presents their data back to them in four main parts: My Online Score Report, My SAT Study Plan, My College Matches, and My Major & Career Matches. **My College QuickStart is available using the access code printed on the student's paper score report**, and the tool can be utilized throughout high school.

Be sure to look beyond the scores when you read your student's PSAT/NMSQT Score Report Plus. You'll find a thorough review of his performance and suggestions for improvement in school and out, as well as advice and tools for college and career preparation.

The students and staff are working diligently at Hodgdon High School; increasing academic rigor with weekly sustained silent reading, daily SAT preparation within the classroom setting, increased training for our academic community in literacy elements and college board programs and so many more amazing initiatives to prepare our students for a successful future. However, parental involvement remains the number one factor in student academic success. We challenge parents and students to sit down with one another this week, log on to www.collegeboard.com and take the journey of academic success together.

If you do not have access to the internet at home, please come in to the school with your student and we will find you a quiet spot to explore www.collegeboard.com together. With the help of parents, teachers and counselors, all students at Hodgdon High School will use the information provided on the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* and My College QuickStart to improve their academic skills and plan for college, a career, and a bright future.