



Greetings Fifth-Form Students and Parents,

We hope that the recent warm weather has treated you well as the school year has kicked off. As the fall moves along, we wanted to inform you about some upcoming opportunities in our standardized testing approach with the fifth-form class.

As has been the case in recent years, Brooks will be offering the PSAT (Practice SAT) on Wednesday, October 16 to both fourth- (sophomore) and fifth-form (junior) students. Fifth-form students will have the opportunity to take the practice test for the second time as most took it a year ago. This year, we are offering students a choice between taking the PSAT exam or taking an online practice ACT exam. If a student performed well on the PSAT exam as a fourth-form student and wishes to take the PSAT to aim for National Merit recognition, taking the PSAT exam at Brooks is an option. Should a student wish to try an online practice ACT, we are having an organization, Test Innovators, administer a real-timed online version of the exam. Scores from that test will be available shortly after the exam and if students or families are interested in additional feedback, strategies and/or online testing resources from Test Innovators, these can be made available for an additional fee. When the academic office begins PSAT and practice ACT registrations in a couple of weeks, students will register for either the PSAT or the online ACT.

On Saturday, November 2, Brooks will be hosting the SAT in the large gym. While there is ample time for standardized testing throughout junior year, in recent years some students have chosen to take the November test. Students who have completed Algebra 2 and have achieved at a high level academically may be good candidates to register for the November test. By taking the SAT, students are not sending these scores directly to colleges at this point in time; it's merely to get a baseline moving forward. The regular registration deadline for the November test is October 3, and the late registration deadline (additional fee) is October 22.

We will be hosting the SAT exam at Brooks again in May and June as well as the official ACT exam in February and April. There is ample time to test in one's fifth-form year and nobody should feel pressured to take the exam in November. We recommend that each student take the SAT and the ACT exams at least once during the 2019-2020 school year. Should you have questions as to whether or not to register for the November SAT exam, please be in touch with your student's college counselor.

While you can imagine our current work with the sixth-form (senior) class is in full swing, we look forward to working with all of you as the year goes along. The college

process for fifth-form students will begin in earnest this winter. Thanks very much and please reach out to myself, Kristin Moody, Wendy Brennan and/or Christine Jackson with any questions.

Best,

Andy Campbell
Dean of College Counseling