

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear North Middlesex Families,

Recently, I have had a number of questions from parents and students regarding standardized testing and the college application process. In an attempt to answer the many questions that are on the minds of our families, I have outlined the most important information below. If you have any further questions, please use the guidance department as a resource.

All junior students, and some sophomore students, took the PSAT at our school this fall. This exam is administered each year in October. The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT exam and is a good way to assess a student's strengths and weaknesses. Using the results of the PSAT can help students to prep for the SAT. Colleges do not see the results of the PSAT. It is purely a practice test. When taken in Junior year, the PSAT is also the basis for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Approximately 3%, nationwide, of the top 11th grade testers will qualify.

It is a good idea to take both the SAT and the ACT exam. Many colleges are now test optional, but depending on one's major, test scores may be required. High test scores may also qualify students for scholarships. Either of the exams are accepted by most colleges, and students may score higher on one or the other. Both sets of scores may be submitted to prospective colleges. While more is not better, colleges will super score; they will go with the results of the higher score in making admission decisions. Both tests have an optional essay section. Students are advised to take this portion of the test. Less competitive colleges do not require the ACT or SAT essay, but skipping this portion can be problematic should a student's college application plans change to include a school that requires the writing portion of either test. What is the difference between the ACT and the SAT? Since the revamp of the SAT, the tests are surprisingly similar, with just a few more obvious differences:

- The ACT has a science section; the SAT does not.
- They both have optional essays, but with different prompts. The SAT supplies an argument for you to support or refute. The ACT asks you to come up with your own argument and provide its support.
- The ACT lets you use a calculator on all math problems and all of the answers are multiple choice. The SAT allows a calculator on only half of the math problems, and also has some fill-in-the-blank problems.
- The SAT gives more time per problem, but the questions themselves require more time to understand and answer. The ACT questions tend to be more straightforward, and is faster paced.

Below is a schedule of upcoming tests.

### **SAT and ACT DATES - Spring 2018**

SAT – *register online* -- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Scores Available</u>
March 10	February 9	March 23
May 5 (at NM)	April 6	May 18
June 2	May 3	July 11

ACT - *register online* - [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Scores Available</u>
April 14	March 9	April 24
June 9	May 4	June 19
July 14	June 15	July 24

Sincerely,

Isaac Taylor  
Principal

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**Need to email a teacher?** Find the address [here](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Friday, January 19	Q2 Grades Close	
Thursday, January 25	Band Boosters meeting - Rm 112	6:30pm - 8pm
Monday, January 29	School Committee meeting - LGI (room 120)	7pm - 10pm
Tuesday, January 30	Q2 Report Cards issued	Via U.S. Mail
Thursday, February 1	NOLA Souper Bowl - Commons	3pm - 8pm
Monday, February 5	Scholarship Committee meeting - Annex	7pm - 9pm
Thursday, February 8	College Admission seminar - PAC	6pm - 8pm
Friday, February 9	Teacher Talent Show - PAC	7pm - 9pm
Saturday, February 10	Project Grad: Comedy Night - PAC (details below)	7pm - 10pm
Monday, February 12	Building Committee meeting - LGI (room 120)	5pm - 7pm
Monday, February 12	School Committee meeting - LGI (room 120)	7pm - 10pm
Tuesday, February 13	Snow date: School Committee meeting - LGI (rm 120)	7pm - 10pm
Tuesday, February 13	Choir Boosters meeting - Rm 110	6:15pm - 8pm
Thursday, February 15	Program of Studies night / Grades 8-11	6pm - 8pm
February 19-23	Winter Vacation - NO SCHOOL	

## WHAT'S HAPPENING...

### PROJECT GRADUATION

**Comedy Night** – Join NMRHS Project Graduation on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 10pm for a great evening out. Enjoy a night of laughter in the high school auditorium.

COVER - \$25 @ door / \$20 advance purchase / \$25 advance PREMIUM Reserved seating.

Contact any committee member for tickets – see the event on our Facebook page NMRHS Project Graduation [pgnmrsd@yahoo.com](mailto:pgnmrsd@yahoo.com) 508 736 5116 Kris Bouchard

### NMRS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

#### **Kenny Chesney tickets at Gillette Stadium!**

The NM Scholarship Committee encourages all students to participate in our annual raffle. We hope that all students reserve their ["10 tickets" here](#). Students can sign up for tickets to sell between now and January 12th. A member of the Scholarship Committee will then be available both during lunches and after school on January 16h 10:30-12:30 and 2:00-6:00pm, and January 17 10:3-12:30 to distribute the actual tickets.

Sold ticket stubs and money as well as any unsold ticket stubs are due February 14, 2018.

Each student who sell 10 tickets will be entered into a raffle to win \$100. (We did this a few years ago with our Taylor Swift raffle)



