

16 February 2017

Dear families:

The Michigan Department of Education requires all current juniors to take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which will be given at Portage Central High School right after Spring Break. The MME is one of Michigan's statewide high-school assessments, and it measures the academic content that every student needs to know to be college- and career-ready upon graduation. PCHS is actively preparing for the administration of this important exam. The MME has three important components:

1. The SAT, a college-readiness assessment by the College Board, which will be given on Tuesday, April 11th, beginning at 7:45 a.m.
2. The ACT WorkKeys, a career-readiness assessment by ACT, which will be given on Wednesday, April 12th, beginning at 7:45 a.m.
3. The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP, an online test that measures student growth regarding Michigan curriculum, which will be given during the week of April 17th, during the school day with no change to the bell schedule.

This is the second year for the statewide SAT assessment to be given here at PCHS. Prior to 2016, juniors in Michigan have taken the ACT as the college-ready assessment. Since the state of Michigan has made the switch to the SAT, we want to assure parents that all colleges that require standardized test scores will accept either the ACT or the SAT. Even though your junior is required to take the SAT, an option for them would be also to take the ACT. Fees for the ACT are around \$50, and you can register your junior at www.actstudent.org.

In addition to the Michigan Merit Exam that our juniors will take, our current freshman and sophomores will be taking the College Board's PSAT assessments also, right after Spring Break. The PSAT is a valuable preparation for the SAT, and it tests over the same skills and knowledge as the SAT but at the 9th and 10th grade levels. Results from the PSAT may also be used to make curricular decisions for students. The PSAT will be given to our freshmen and sophomores as follows:


- 9th graders will take the PSAT 9 on Tuesday, April 11th, beginning at 7:45 a.m.
- 10th graders will take the PSAT 10 on Wednesday, April 12th, beginning at 7:45 a.m.

Attendance and Off-Site Students

In order to graduate from Portage Public Schools, a student must take all components of the Michigan Merit Exam; therefore, every effort should be made to have perfect attendance during this testing window. The same attendance expectation applies for the 9th and 10th grade PSAT assessments as well. *Students enrolled in off-campus programs will be expected to attend all testing sessions at PCHS.* We have notified our off-campus programs, all of which have an agreement that a student's home school schedule takes precedence.

Other important details to note

All PPS buses will run on the regular schedule. If your student has to ride the bus on a morning that she or he is not testing, she or he will be required to stay in the Commons, so please bring a book to read. In addition, the only items allowed in the testing rooms on test day are photo ID, pencils, an approved calculator (visit www.collegeboard.org for approved calculator list), and a wonderful, well-rested Mustang attitude!

More info on back 



How you can help your student get ready

The best preparation for tests such as the PSAT and the SAT is practice, practice, practice! College Board has partnered with the Khan Academy to offer free practice resources to Michigan students for the PSAT and SAT. We encourage you and your student to visit the PCHS website, where you will find important information on these tests, such as key components of the SAT, the difference between the ACT and the SAT, how to use the Khan Academy website, and much more. Some important websites to visit are

- www.portageps.org, click on Schools, High School, Central High
- www.satpractice.org
- www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan

Testing schedule for Tuesday 4/11/2017 and Wednesday 4/12/2017

	Tuesday 4/11/2017	Wednesday 4/12/2017
9th grade	PSAT for all 9th grade 7:45 a.m. testing begins Classes start after testing and lunch break	No school in the morning☺ Late start for classes (see below) If you have to ride morning bus, you will need to stay in PC Commons during testing.
10th grade	No school in the morning☺ Late start for classes (see below) If you have to ride morning bus, you will need to stay in PC Commons during testing.	PSAT for all 10th grade 7:45 a.m. testing begins Classes start after testing
11th grade	SAT with Essay for all 11th grade 7:45 a.m. testing begins Classes start after testing and lunch break	ACT WorkKeys for all 11th grade 7:45 a.m. testing begins Classes start after testing
12th grade	No school in the morning☺ Late start for classes (see below) If you have to ride morning bus, you will need to stay in PC Commons during testing.	No school in the morning☺ Late start for classes (see below) If you have to ride morning bus, you will need to stay in PC Commons during testing.
All students:	Classes begin at 1:25 for all students: 1:25-1:54 1 st Hour 1:59-2:27 2 nd Hour 2:32-3:00 3 rd Hour	Classes begin at 11:36 for all students: 11:36-1:04 5 th Hour 1:09-1:43 4 th Hour 1:48-2:22 6 th Hour 2:27-3:00 7 th Hour

Note: Juniors will also be taking M-STEP online Michigan tests the week of April 17th. There will be no change in the school schedule during this testing, as juniors will be called down out of class as a group to test in various testing rooms.

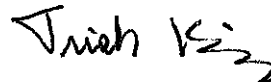
If you have additional questions about the MME or the PSAT, please contact your child’s counselor. If you have any questions regarding the testing schedule, please contact Trish King at tking@portageps.org.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important testing and this change to our school day schedule.

In appreciation and respect,



Eric Alburtus
Principal



Trish King
Test Coordinator