



NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
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GARY S. MATHEWS, Ph. D.
Superintendent

LINDA HAYDEN, Ed. D.
*Associate Superintendent for
Curriculum, Instruction, & Technology*

September 28, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Tenth Grade Student,

On September 17, 2010, the state of Georgia appropriated funds for all tenth grade students to participate in the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or the PSAT/NMSQT. The PSAT/NMSQT is a comprehensive, standardized assessment that measures reading, math reasoning, writing skills, knowledge and skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses, and critical thinking skills. There are five sections on the PSAT/NMSQT: two 25 minute critical reading sections, two 25 minute math sections, and one 30 minute writing skills section. **All Newton County tenth grade students will participate in the administration of this exam on Wednesday, October 13, 2010.** The assessment, including administrative tasks, will last roughly 2 hours and 45 minutes. On the day of the PSAT/NMSQT, your student should eat a healthy breakfast, arrive to school on time, bring a calculator, and several sharpened number 2 pencils.

The results of the PSAT/NMSQT will provide you and your student the opportunity to begin addressing areas in need of additional attention in preparation for life beyond high school. Your student will receive an individual student report for your review in December 2010, and counselors will be available (by appointment) to assist with the interpretation of the provided reports; please contact your student's counselor to set up an appointment if necessary. The school and the system will receive reports that will enable teachers and school and district level administrators to begin identifying curricular and instructional gaps so as to make the necessary adjustments to ensure our students are competitive both locally and nationally.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance as we work together to make certain that all students who attend a Newton County school are college and career ready. Should you have questions prior to the testing date, please contact your student's counselor.

Sincerely,

Samantha Fuhrey
Director of Secondary Education