

## NOTE FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE AT CALVIN CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

### Standardized Testing Schedule

- October 12, 2021 - PSAT 9 for all 9th grade students
- October 13, 2021 - NMSQT (optional test for students that registered and paid)
- March 22, 2022 - PSAT 10 for all 10th grade students
- March 23, 2022 - SAT for all 11th grade students

Dear Parents,

I am writing to explain the standardized testing available at CCHS for the 2021-2022 school year. Standardized tests continue to be a factor for acceptance at most colleges. Additionally, standardized testing provides staff useful data in regards to our desire to provide the best and most current curriculum and instruction which God is calling us to provide your students. Colleges accept both ACT and SAT. Colleges will take the best score of either test.

CCHS will offer the PSAT 9 to all freshmen as the first test in the group of tests called the "SAT Suite of Assessments". This test is a precursor to the PSAT 10, the NMSQT and the SAT. In practical terms, this PSAT provides students with great testing practice. It provides teachers with valuable data in terms of students' strengths and needs in key curricular areas. The PSAT 9 will take part the morning of Tuesday, October 12. We will not be providing a makeup test for any late or absent students. A very similar test will be given to all sophomores on March 22 - the PSAT 10, another practice for the SAT.

The optional National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) will be offered at CCHS on Wednesday, October 13. Signups take place in the CCHS office through September 10 following the instructions in the September newsletters and the daily announcements. **The cost of \$18.00 is due at the time of sign up.** The NMSQT is a test designed to measure what students have learned in high school and what they need to succeed in college. The scores of this exam can qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship program. Each year 1.6 million high school students enter the competition and roughly 7,500 National Merit Scholarships will be awarded (appr. 0.5% of test-takers). To enter this scholarship program, students must take the NMSQT on October 13 and be in 11th grade. Students in 10th grade may take the test but it is strictly for practice as they cannot qualify for the scholarship. Sophomores will have an opportunity to take a practice SAT (the PSAT 10) in March at CCHS as well. The NMSQT is purely optional.

On March 23, juniors will have an opportunity to take the SAT at CCHS. All juniors will be able to take the SAT during a school day. Colleges across Michigan continue to report they have no preference between ACT or SAT when considering a student for acceptance, but every college in the nation accepts the SAT. CCHS continues to urge students to take both the ACT and SAT at least once before late fall of their senior year. Please visit our [Testing Information page](#) of the website for information to register for a Saturday SAT or ACT in the area. We host the ACT four times at CCHS this year on Saturdays (September 11, December 11, February 12, and June 11). Sign up for an ACT at CCHS is done through the [ACT website](#) and questions about these testing dates can be directed to Kelli Boender ([kboender@gccsmi.org](mailto:kboender@gccsmi.org)).

**Blessings,**

**Nate Vander Wal - School Counselor for 10th-12th grades ([nvanderwal@gccsmi.org](mailto:nvanderwal@gccsmi.org))**