



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE LEARNING AND SUCCESS FOR EACH STUDENT BY PROVIDING A QUALITY EDUCATION.

Creating a College Going Culture: Providing the PSAT for all students

Board of Education Meeting
October 14, 2015

Delores Stephens, Co-Interim Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D., Co-Interim Superintendent
Deborah Stark, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Greg Francois Ed.D., Director of Secondary Education

Purpose of the presentation

- To understand the rationale for administering the PSAT to all 11th graders at PHS.
- To outline the benefits for students in taking the PSAT.
- To review the logistics of PSAT administration and how the process was communicated to students and parents.

Why administer the PSAT to all 11th graders at PHS?

- Creating a college going culture is Goal 2 in Paramount Unified School District's Local Control Accountability Plan.
- To promote a college going culture, the College and Career Center at Paramount High School will administer the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) free of charge to all 11th grade students for the 2015-16 school year.

Why administer the PSAT to all 11th graders at PHS?

- Systematic effort to promote a college going culture.
- Nearly all students who take the PSAT indicate they plan to go to college.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses on mathematics and language arts skills so students can improve before taking the SAT.

Why should students take the PSAT?

- Assess college readiness.
- This test will be the first administration that is aligned with the redesigned SAT to be administered in March 2016.

What are the benefits?

- Preliminary version of the SAT: students become familiar with the kind of questions and directions they will see on the actual SAT.
- When students participate in the Student Search Service, they are automatically placed on a list serve to receive college information.
- To qualify for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Recent notification from the College Board

- PHS seniors Daniel Lopez and Avery De La Cruz: scored in the top 2.5% of Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT takers in our region, identified by taking the PSAT last year.
- These students are potential finalists for the National Hispanic Recognition Program, which leads to scholarship opportunities.

Logistics

- Test administered October 28, 2015.
- All 11th grade PHS students participate.
- No cost to students.
- Counselors provided PSAT overview in Language Arts classes.
- Test prep booklets were distributed to all 11th graders.

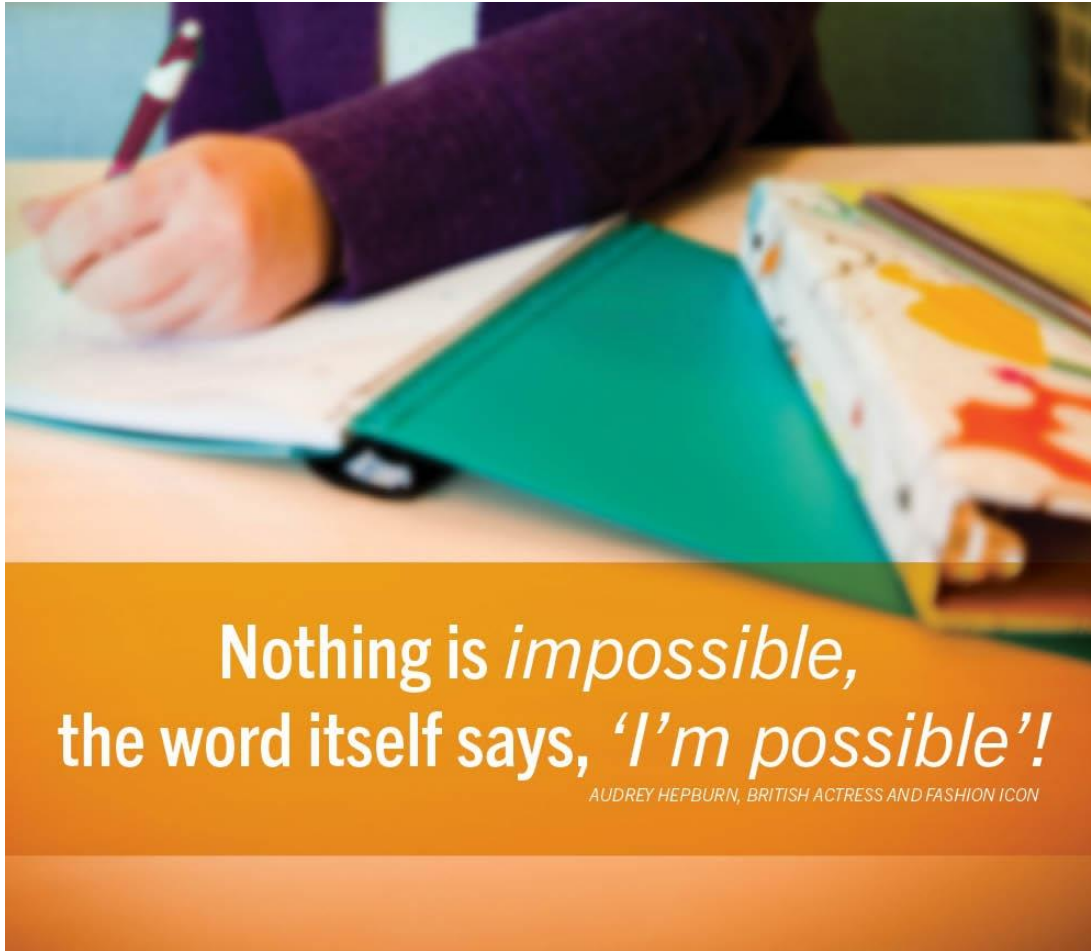
How were parents informed?

- Parent letter describing the benefits was sent home in September, 2015.
- College and Career Center presentations.
- Parent workshops during Back to School Night.
- Blackboard Connect message.

Timeline

Activity	Date
PSAT results provided to students	January, 2016
Counselors to meet with students to discuss PSAT results	January, 2016
SAT Prep classes provided at PHS	February, 2016
SAT administration	March, 2016

Inspiration



Nothing is *impossible*,
the word itself says, '*I'm possible*'!

AUDREY HEPBURN, BRITISH ACTRESS AND FASHION ICON



Questions



PHS Counseling Staff

