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Dear Parents and Guardians of Current Freshmen (Class of 2013):

On Wednesday, October 13, 2010, your student will have the opportunity to take the PSAT at your high school. Peninsula School District believes that this is an excellent step in making our students aware of their skills and performance in order to help them to prepare for success after graduation. The PSAT will be offered free of charge to all sophomores.

As you are aware, we recently began to provide the ACT Explore Test at grades 8 and 9. These tests have provided useful information to our students as they make their transition from middle to high school as well as guided them toward courses that they need for their career field or college readiness.

Most students who take the PSAT are in the 10th or 11th grade. The PSAT is excellent preparation for the SAT, a college admissions test. In the same way, the Explore 8 and 9 provide preparation for those wanting to take the ACT, the PSAT prepares students for taking the SAT college admissions test. Some students choose to take both the ACT and SAT, to ensure that they are submitting the best and most appropriate scores to their colleges of choice. We believe that by providing our students options for both testing formats, we are assisting our students in meeting their goals.

If students take the PSAT once, their SAT scores show improvement. When they take the PSAT two times, their scores on the SAT take a sizeable jump. Often this is a jump in each of the sections (reading, writing, mathematics) of nearly 80 points. Familiarity with a test format helps most students tremendously. For students who take the PSAT as a junior, they may be eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's scholarship competition.

For those students who take the PSAT, they also receive the following benefits:

My College Quick Start (www.collegeboard.com/quickstart)

- Interactive score report with explanations of answers to all test questions
- Personalized lists of college and majors based on their test
- Practice for the SAT essay with sample essay prompt and sample responses
- Practice on high-level questions from the SAT

Score Report Plus

- Personalized feedback on test performance with study suggestions

My Road (a comprehensive, interactive web based college and career planning tool)

- Personality profiler that helps outline major interests and career options
- Search colleges by location, major, cost, and much more
- Online portfolio *My Plan* to store information and a resume' builder for planning

Peninsula School District, through access to the ACT and PSAT tests, hopes to open the doors to possibilities for our students no matter what route they pursue after they leave high school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudia Thompson, Asst. Superintendent/Learning and Teaching

For more information: www.collegeboard.com/parents/ and www.act.org

