



**Martin Murphy
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**A California Gold
Ribbon School**



"Success is no accident!"

Principal

Alex Aasen

Asst. Principal

Jennifer Cordone

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On December 6th, 2016, the eighth grade students will be taking the PSAT exam. The PSAT is an exam that helps prepare students for the rigors of university level entrance assessments. The exam serves as a "check-in" on progress, allowing students and teachers to pinpoint areas for focused practice as the students progress through high school. The PSAT will reflect the knowledge and skill areas tested by the redesigned SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the PSAT 10.

On this assessment, students will encounter:

- An emphasis on reasoning alongside a focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career readiness and success.
- A focus on the meaning of words in a variety of contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact.
- An emphasis on math that matters most, including problem solving, data analysis, algebra, and advanced mathematical concepts.
- Rights-only scoring (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores).

All students that complete the PSAT will receive a score report. Please help to ensure that your child arrives to school on time. The school start time will be the same as a normal school day, 9:00 AM with a 3:05 PM release time. The seventh grade students will have a regular bell schedule for the day while the eighth grade students will be testing. If an eighth grade student arrives after the test has begun, he or she will not be able to participate in the PSAT.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Cordone, the Assistant Principal, at 408-201-6260.