

IN THE PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE

September

- Register for the October PSAT.
- Review your courses for this year and plan your schedule for senior year. Remember, you want to take a strong course load, one that makes sense for you as a student. You want to take challenging courses that you can do well in!
- Maintain your co-curricular record (all year)
- Save samples of your best work for your academic portfolio.

NACAC recommendations for juniors in the month of September .

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
**September
College
Representative
Visits**

*Hampden-Sydney
College*
Tuesday, Sept. 27

*Virginia Common-
wealth
University*
Tuesday, Sept. 27

*Christopher Newport
University*
Wednesday, Sept. 28

◆

JUNIOR JOG

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2011

The PSAT/NMSQT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

Sophomore year you took the PSAT for practice as a warm-up for the upcoming NMSQT. You are one step closer to college / post-secondary education and therefore eligible for National Merit consideration. Taking the PSAT again this year also gives you an opportunity to practice for the SAT and ACT which you will want to schedule to take in the late winter or spring of 2012.

Last December you received your PSAT results. It would be a great idea to first find, then use your score report and take advantage of the valuable information recorded there. Much more important than the numbers are the patterns of right and wrong answers and what they suggest about the content and skills that you need to develop and work on to improve your PSAT scores.

Use your scores of last year as a "benchmark" or a starting point. Some students find they will only improve slightly and others a great deal. The coursework you completed last spring along with your independent reading (reading for pleasure outside of required reading for class assignments) are the two most important factors in improving scores.

How can you benefit from taking the PSAT again even if you

took it as a freshman or sophomore? One reason would be that National Merit finalists receive \$2500 from the National Merit



College Fair
October 27, 2011
Lafayette High School
7:00-8:30pm
100 institutions represented!

Program. Additionally many colleges give additional scholarship money for incoming first year students. Within our state; Franklin and Marshall College (3), Liberty University (3), Virginia Tech (15) and Washington & Lee University (15) all give additional merit grants to National Merit Scholars who are finalists admitted to their institutions. Many other institutions and corporations give merit grants based on the NMSQT. Not bad for a \$14.00 investment and time out of class one school day to take the PSAT as a junior. If you are a strong test taker it could really be worth it for you even if your

PSAT scores predict you could do pretty well on the SAT. Could you become a merit finalist?

If your PSAT scores from last year show room for improvement you will have excellent feedback with My College Quickstart to see just how far you have come from your benchmark of last year.

Use this year to take it upon yourself to get organized and stay organized for these key academic years in your high school experience! If you cannot find your scores from last year see your counselor or Ms. Hanks-Nicoll for your score code.

Colleges continue to urge students to redouble their personal reading throughout the year. Educators agree with many universities and colleges that personal reading takes on an even greater importance in this electronic era.

We welcome all Lafayette students to come to the area College Fair being held at Lafayette High School and sponsored by VACRAO (Virginia Area College Registrars and Admission Officers). Representatives from over 100 in-state and out-of-state institutions will be here with materials and information about their institutions. Put October 27th on your calendar and we'll see you at the fair!