

## Why Should a Junior Take the PSAT?

- ◆ **Taking the PSAT as a Junior is a first step in applying for the National Merit Scholarship Program.**
- ◆ **What is the National Merit Scholarship?**
  - ◆ The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition where you can potentially get recognition and qualify for scholarships based on your PSAT score. The National Merit \$2,500 scholarships are awarded by state (that can be renewed each year you're in college).
- ◆ **So, how does the National Merit Scholarship work?**
  - ◆ Each year, about 1.6 million students take the PSAT. Of the juniors who take the exam, about 16,000 earn scores that qualify them as Semifinalists. This group is narrowed down to 15,000, who become Finalists. Of this group, about 7,500 are awarded scholarships.

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- ◆ **What else should I know about the National Merit Scholarship?**
  - ◆ Becoming a National Merit Finalist is competitive and requires a top score on the PSAT. Although it varies from state to state, most students must score above 1400 (out of 1520) to qualify as a Semifinalist, which means they can compete to move on to Finalist standing.
  - ◆ The National Merit competition uses a Selection Index that is based on your Reading, Math, and Writing test scores, so mastering all three sections is key.
- ◆ **How do I sign up for the PSAT?**
  - ◆ Through RevTrak! The cost of the test is \$18. RevTrack will open Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and close on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There are only 30 slots available, so it is first come, first serve. The PSAT is administered during school on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.