

# *Conroe ISD's Merit Achievement Program*

## *2016-2017*

### *What is the National Merit Scholarship Corporation?*

The National Merit<sup>®</sup> **Scholarship** Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit **Scholarship** Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>)—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

### *How do I participate in the NMSC?*

To participate in the National Merit<sup>®</sup> **Scholarship** Program, a student must:

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> in October of junior year. **(All Conroe ISD sophomores and juniors are given the PSAT free of charge in October.)**
- Be enrolled full time as a high school student, progressing normally toward graduation or completion of high school, and planning to enroll full time in college no later than the fall following completion of high school.

### *How do I qualify?*

Of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit<sup>®</sup> **Scholarship** Program. In April following the fall test administration, high-scoring participants from every state are invited to name two colleges or universities to which they would like to be referred by NMSC. In September, these high scorers are notified through their schools that they have qualified as either a Commended Student or Semifinalist.

### *How can I prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT?*

Conroe ISD is inviting selected students to participate in the Merit Achievement Program (MAP) preparation courses. The MAP is a comprehensive **44 hour** course designed to assist academically advanced 10th grade students prepare for the PSAT given early in their junior year. ***The MAP is composed of 32 hours of PSAT instruction and practice tests and 12 hours of SAT preparation prior to taking the SAT.*** Princeton Review materials are provided for both PSAT and SAT classes. Courses will begin in August at selected CISD high schools, and your student may choose the most convenient class location.

### *Is there a fee for the MAP, and how do I register?*

A one-time tuition of **\$350** is the only cost to students for the entire program. ***Please remember to register for the MAP PSAT and the MAP SAT courses. Refer to the College Board SAT website to register for the SAT. The actual SAT testing is not a component of the MAP college preparation course.***

To register for the classes, go to <http://ready.conroeisd.net>. Registration opens Wednesday, **June 29, 2016** and seating is limited. Financial Aid for the prep class is available for students who qualify. See your school counselor for a financial aid application. For additional information please call Veronica Martin Perkins, [vmartin@conroeisd.net](mailto:vmartin@conroeisd.net), at 936-709-7667 or Nita Lewis, [nlewis@conroeisd.net](mailto:nlewis@conroeisd.net), at 936-709-7924.

