



August 8, 2018

Dear Roman Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for the start of the 2018-2019 school year, the school's Administration and the Math Department have been carefully developing a plan to improve PSAT/SAT scores for all students. Each school year, students in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade take the PSATs, and **this year's test is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>**.

The PSAT is also known as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and is a preparatory version of the SAT exam. If a student achieves a high score on the PSAT during his junior year, he could be eligible to receive a National Merit Scholarship. Each year, over \$180 million in merit scholarships are awarded. In addition, students who become National Merit Finalists will become more attractive applicants for colleges and universities, which may lead to an increase in merit-based scholarships provided by the various academic institutions across the country. From the first day of school, the importance of taking the PSAT seriously will be stressed to the students. When students take the testing experience seriously, the scores earned will assist Roman's Counselors to provide the most appropriate guidance on course selection, the college application process, among other critical components to the high school experience.

As part of this Mathematics strategic plan, students will be ***required*** to have a functional, non-iPad calculator for use in class each day.

- At minimum, students taking Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry are required to have a **TI-30x scientific calculator** or **comparable models**. These calculators are also acceptable on the PSAT and SAT tests.
- Students taking Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus, and Statistics are required to have a graphing calculator; the most effective range from **TI-82 through TI-84**.
  - Please note that even though they are only required in the upper level math courses, **TI-82, TI-83, and TI-84** graphing calculators are acceptable in all math courses. They are also acceptable on the PSAT/SAT and are used heavily at the college level also. The cost of these calculators is certainly higher than the **TI-30x**, but it would certainly be a beneficial investment as your son continues his academic career.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance with this math initiative!

Sincerely,

*Jim Brennan*

Mr. Jim Brennan '97  
Math Department Chair

*Vince Tarducci*

Mr. Vince Tarducci '02  
Principal

*Brian Conroy*

Mr. Brian Conroy '91  
Assistant Principal for  
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