Dear Parents or Guardians of FBISD 8th and 9th Graders, October 5, 2016

This communication is to inform you that all 8th and 9th grade students in Fort Bend ISD will take the PSAT 8/9 (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test), on October 19, 2016. The PSAT 8/9 is the first in the College Board’s “SAT Suite of Assessments,” and is aligned with the newly designed SAT that went into effect March 2016. At several points along its path, the SAT Suite of Assessments connects students to programs that recognize academic excellence and award college scholarships. Scores from the PSAT 8/9 ARE NOT used in any scholarship or recognition programs. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9 is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness at the time when students are transitioning to high school. This exam serves as a “check-in” on progress, allowing students, parents and teachers to pinpoint areas for focused practice as students progress through high school.

The PSAT 8/9 includes 2 hours and 45 minutes of actual testing time and 15 minutes of breaks. There will be tests in reading, writing and language, math (given in 2 portions – one with no calculator and one on which a calculator is permitted, although not required) and a variable section with questions from all three of those areas.

**Regarding calculator use and approved calculators**, the College Board states, *“****All questions can be solved without a calculator****, but a scientific or graphing calculator is recommended [for the portion of the math test on which a calculator is permitted]…….****Students are encouraged to bring their own calculators.*** Students may **NOT** use:

* laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones;
* models that can access the Internet, have wireless, Bluetooth, cellular, audio/video, recording and playing, camera or any other smartphone-type feature;
* models that have typewriter-like keypad, pen-input, or stylus; or
* models that use electrical outlets, make noise, or have paper tape.”

**The following calculators ARE ALLOWED on the PSAT 8/9 Math Portion that permits calculator use.**

All scientific calculators are acceptable to use on the PSAT 8/9. Any four-function calculator can be used (though not recommended). The following is a list of approved graphing calculators for the PSAT 8/9. No other graphing calculator may be used.

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| **Casio** | **Hewlett-Packard** | **Radio Shack** | **Sharp** | **Texas Instruments** |  |
| FX-6000 seriesFX-6200 seriesFX-6300 seriesFX-6500 seriesFX-7000 seriesFX-7300 seriesFX-7400 seriesFX-7500 seriesFX-7700 seriesFX-7800 seriesFX-8000 seriesFX-8500 series | FX-8700 seriesFX-8800 seriesFX-9700 seriesFX-9750 seriesFX-9860 seriesCFX-9800 seriesCFX-9850 seriesCFX-9970 seriesFX 1.0 seriesAlgebra FX 2.0 seriesFX-CG-10 (PRIZM)FX-CG-20 | HP-9GHP-28 seriesHP-38GHP-39 seriesHP-40 seriesHP-48 seriesHP-49 seriesHP-50 seriesHP Prime | EC-4033EC-4034EC-4037 | EL-5200EL-9200 seriesEL-9300 seriesEL-9600 series\*\*EL-9900 series**Other**Datexx DS-883MicrontaSmart² | TI-83TI-80TI-81TI-82TI-83TI-83 PlusTI-83 Plus SilverTI-84 PlusTI-84 Plus CETI-84 Plus SilverTI-84 Plus C Silver | TI-85TI-86TI-89TI-89 TitaniumTI-NspireTI-Nspire CXTI-Nspire CM-CTI Nspire CASTI-Nspire CX CASTI-Nspire CM-C CASTI-Nspire CX-C CAS |

\*\*The use of the stylus is not permitted.

As stated above, it is recommended that students bring their own calculators, although the use of a calculator is not required since all questions can be solved without a calculator. **Schools will not provide calculators on test day.** It is not necessary for you to purchase a graphing calculator. Scientific calculators, which many households already have, will be sufficient for this exam. Also, many of them can be purchased inexpensively.

Khan Academy and the College Board (makers of SAT) have partnered to provide free and affordable SAT practice at the following website**.** <https://sat.collegeboard.org/practice>

If you have questions, feel free to contact Allison Pike allison.pike@fortbendisd.com .