

The Echo



WILSON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

The Echo

October, 2014

2014 Homecoming

By: Mackenzie Hartrum

Homecoming is creeping up quickly! Pick your date and choose your dress because the Wilson Area Homecoming will be held on Saturday, October 18.

Tickets will be sold for \$7 each, or \$13 per couple. On the night of the dance, all tickets will be \$8. This year's theme will be "A Night in Vegas" featuring poker chips, cards, and many flashy decorations.

Music will include a DJ, staying away from remixes, who will play all of the popular songs. The dress code is a little different than previous years. Being the only school in the Lehigh Valley to have a casual homecoming dance, student council decided to go semi-formal!

Student council works hard to make Homecoming a night to remember. Since they are not hosting winter formal this year, all of their focus will be

on this dance. "We're looking at it as not just a fundraiser, but an event, so we don't only want to make money off it. We would rather just throw on an awesome dance," says student council president, Jess Buttner.

With a night of friends, dancing, and making memories, it'll truly be a night in Vegas that you will actually want to remember.

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Pictures courtesy of Google

Mr. Beitler Interview

By: Tanesha Schaffer and Emily Reiter

On September 26th, 2014 I had the privilege of interviewing Wilson Area High School's new assistant principle, Mr. Beitler. He provided me with insight into his home life, personal interests, and aspirations here at Wilson.

Mr. Beitler spends most of his time with his three kids. It's special moments like playing dress up with his daughter and trucks with his two sons that he loves. He watches Disney Channel and Dora the Explorer with the family, something we can probably all remember watching as kids. In his spare time, he also likes to restore cars.

"What was growing up as a kid like for you?" I asked. "Growing up as a kid was fun. I was always outdoors, everyday, from the time the sun came up, until the sun went down!" Mr. Beitler replied.

He had other jobs before becoming a Vice Principal; he was a teacher for nine years. In addition, while in college, he was involved in a construction crew for five years that built houses. Although he held many other job positions, becoming a Vice Principal was his goal.

Vice Principal was his first choice as a career. Wilson High School is smaller, giving him the

opportunity to get to know more students. It is this student to teacher relationship that Mr. Beitler strives to attain. Mr. Beitler states, "I love coming to work here every day because I enjoy getting to know everyone in the school." Mr. Beitler wants students at Wilson to know if there are any problems here at the school, to go talk to him.

Wilson Area High School is so fortunate to gain Mr. Beitler as a part of the faculty. He truly cares about the welfare of the students and is such an interesting, fun person! Mr. Beitler is a down to earth family man, who looks forward to helping better our school.

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Return of the Tribe

By: Rachel Torres



Pictures courtesy of Phil Pierfy

Phil Pierfy revived the tribe to support the Wilson Warrior football team. Before Pierfy and other seniors decided to bring the tribe back there were few students for the past couple of years that wanted to support the team. This happened because there was not enough school spirit and there was no faith in the football team.

He has been very successful in bringing the tribe back with whiteouts, neon colors, and USA night. He has really stepped up to show that with a little love and support the team will progress. Once they're able to see how much the students care if they win or

lose, they will be inspired. "I know first hand how awesome it is to play in front of a student section so it started off with me wanting to support them, but everyone jumped at the chance and has been so great being there." says Pierfy.

Once football season ends and basketball season starts, he's very unsure of who the tribe will be passed down to for the season and even after he graduates. He's hoping that someone can take over so the tribe can continue.

Although Wilson is a small school we are different than most sections in the valley. With a small

number of about 40-50 kids we are extremely loud and we have so much faith in our team. "I think that it makes us special with how close the kids in the section are to the players and how loud we are even with a small number of people," says Pierfy.

Phil Pierfy and the tribe plan to attend every football game, rain or shine. Pierfy explains that the players are going to play their hardest no matter the weather, so he wants to be able to back them up. "The team has been unlucky to not win, so I definitely see some wins coming and we don't want to miss out."

New Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Prestifilippo

By: Scott Marceca

Many new teachers roam our high school this year. One of these new teachers is Mr. Prestifilippo. Commonly referred to as "Mr. Presti," this amiable newcomer teaches Honors Pre-Calculus, Algebra 2, and Algebra 1: Part 2. Mr. Presti attended the University of Scranton for his undergraduate degree, and he received his

teaching certification at DeSales University. When asked about his hobbies, Mr. Presti replied that he enjoys playing the guitar, singing, playing with his son, and riding his gas scooter. Also, Mr. Presti stated that Wilson has some refreshing changes compared to the former school he taught at. He loves Wilson's blue and

gold colors and enjoys its small size. Moreover, he finds the students at Wilson to be welcoming and friendly. Be sure to warmly welcome Mr. Presti to our school next time you see him!

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Senior Spotlight

By: Amiie Bullard

Students at Wilson have a variation of post-high school goals, so I sat down with Trevor Miller, a senior planning to attend a four-year, for-profit college. For-profit education refers to schools operated by private, profit-seeking businesses. They receive fees from each student enrolled. Trevor plans on pursuing a career in the gaming industry, as a developer. His top choice is Full Sail University, in Florida. I asked him a few questions to learn more about for-profit schools.

Me: Did you plan on attending a for-profit school?

Trevor: I was looking for a more modern college, and it had to offer the classes I'm interested in. Not a lot of colleges focus on technology, so I found Full Sail, and that was the one that I liked the most. It just happened to be for-profit.

M: Did it being for-profit affect your decision to focus on that school?

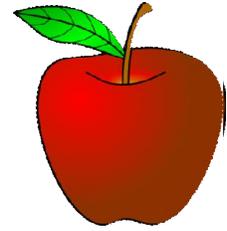
T: No, it was difficult to find a school that offered exactly what I want, so when I found Full Sail I stuck with it.

M: Many people consider degrees achieved at a for-profit college to be worth

less than those received at a "standard" four-year school. Would knowing this affect your decision to apply?

T: No. I would rather get the best education and have to work to find a place to start my career, than not have the full education.

Although moving sixteen hours away from home will be a big change, Trevor is excited to start his life at a college that provides the exact classes he needs to achieve his aspirations.



Spirit Week

By: Shannon Mattes

The beginning of the school year sparks both spirit week and the famous hallway decorating competition.

Every year, student council organizes a spirit week that allows students to dress up in themed outfits, while showing their school spirit. Last year, themes such as western Wednesday enticed students to participate. Keep an eye out for the announcement about theme days in order to

dress up and show your school spirit!

Along with spirit week, the hallway decorating competition takes place every year. Hallway decorating is an event where every class, freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior, compete to decorate a hallway and win the contest. Each class votes on a theme and they begin decorating the night before.



Pictures courtesy of Google

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Skyward Editorial

By: Emily Reiter



Controversy has risen within the halls of Wilson Area High School. Skyward, a software company specializing in aiding schools to manage and store information pertaining to Student Management, Human Resources, Financial Management, Food Service, and Special Education, was adopted by Wilson, instead of using Edline. Is this new program helpful, or just another confusing technological addition to our school?

Personally, I feel that Skyward can be

slightly perplexing. Unlike Edline, to access Skyward you must first go to the Wilson Area School District's website, <http://www.wilsonareasd.org>. Then, you must click on "Students," proceeding to scroll down to click on "Skyward." This is a longer process, but eventually you will get to the site you need. In addition, there have been issues with accessing teachers' personal sites through Skyward. Students cannot view their assignments, but still get punished if they are unin-

formed and miss a task. It is very stressful to be absent and then be unable to see what you missed during the day.

The majority of students feel that Skyward was not necessary and the school should have continued with the use of Edline. However, it just takes practice to get used to the new program. Student Allison Reiter says, "Skyward was confusing at first, but I got used to it." I suggest that you all approach Skyward with an open mind. Sometimes, change can be good.



Pictures courtesy of Google

Band Competition

By: Chavi Sharma

Wilson Area High School marching band is starting the 2014-2015 season off with a bang! This year, the marching band gained many members, especially from the recruiting program. Last year, the new Band Director, Jonathon Freidhoff, successfully implemented a mentoring program in which seniors went to the middle school to mentor kids. After the loss of many seniors, the band did not give up. The first band competition was The Exeter competition, in which the band was graded according to a "five-point grading scale." The young band successfully received Outstanding out of the grading

scale, which is the second best rating! In addition to that, Wilson won the "Best Drum Major Award," which went to Senior Drum Major Hannah Patterson and Junior Drum Major Timothy Horan. The marching band's second competition was located at Bangor. However, the grading system was different; it was a four point grading scale. Despite the change in pace, the Warriors took home all "Excellent" in all categories! When the marching band is not practicing, they do many other activities

such as having pasta parties, going out together, campfires, pool parties, and even going to haunted houses. The band is also planning a trip to compete in Chicago this year. The band will have two more competitions concluding the 2014-2015 football season. It will be the "Tamaqua Band Show" and the "Phillipsburg Band show." They hope to reach their goal of having a successful year and preparing all the young band members so they can be successful.

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SADD Comedy Night

By: Andorra Bastein

Wilson Area High School was accompanied by a great entertainer on Saddle's comedy event. Sarge, who is known a quadruple threat, filled the night with laughter in his real life comical stories. Although coming from a tragic background of being

an alcoholic and drug addict, Sarge found his way and is now sober as a profound comedian. The school found his humorous situations of his past life amusing. He gave students the view that being hurtful to someone who is different is wrong. Being that

Sarge is multi-talented; he entertained the crowd with his hilarious jokes, but also showed his natural talent of playing the piano. The night was swarming with pleasurable moments and was a fantastic event.



**Recovery
Revolution**
steps for healthy living

Arts News

By: Chavi Sharma

This year, the art students will be creating specific designs that will be representing the seniors in the "Senior Superlatives" page in the superlatives page in the yearbook. Emily Reiter, senior art student at Wilson,

submitting ideas for the yearbook cover, was chosen to represent the cover. She is officially the Yearbook Cover Editor for the Yearbook this year! She got the opportunity to work with the artist that made her idea

come to life! Wilson Area High School's art programs are not recognized enough. These students put hours of hard work in to celebrate the Wilson Community!



Pictures courtesy of Google

Costa Rica 2016

By: Ashley-Rose Starry

Do you want to zip-line through the tropics? Are you interested in experiencing different cultures and regions of Central America? Members of the World Travelers Club will be going to Costa Rica in 2016 to embark on exciting adventures and experience new cultures. This ten day trip will give the group a chance to observe natural wonders and create vivid

memories of their activities in Costa Rica. While exploring the Arenal region, the travelers will visit the Poás Volcano and hot springs. They will also go kayaking on Lake Arenal and visit La Fortuna Waterfall. The group's next stop will be Monteverde, where they will go horseback riding and visit a local school to observe Costa Rica's education system.

The travelers will also go on a thrilling crocodile hunt! Near the conclusion of their trip, the group will enjoy a folklore evening and have plenty of fun whitewater rafting on the Sarapiquí River. If you are interested in going on this incredible trip, please see Mrs. Tarsi for more information.

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Domestic Violence on the Rise: Ray Rice

By: Joseph Espinal



Domestic violence is a serious issue that leads to severe punishment in most cases. The Ray Rice scandal has been intensified due to the publicity that the situation has received, causing Rice an indefinite suspension from the NFL.

After the incident took place, the Baltimore Ravens released the star running back in order to prevent negative public attention. In response to his charges, he stated, "I failed miserably, but I wouldn't call myself a failure cause I'm working myself back up." Rice feels that as long as he has his fiancée and family by his side, nothing can deteriorate his optimism.

Rice was charged with third-degree aggravated assault for knocking his fiancée unconscious in an elevator on March 27, 2014. This act falls under the category of domestic violence, which is an aggressive confrontation between family, spouses, and household members involving physical harm. Police are forced to act on the issue immediately in order to send a message to all those who need help.

Unfortunately, there is a long-term effect that takes place on the children of the household who are victims of domestic violence. Mrs. David, a counselor at Wilson Area High School who has had experience with handling domestic violence, describes the levels of frus-

tration and desperation which may cause families to erupt into violence.

Domestic violence is a problem that plagues our nation. In order to avoid these difficult circumstances, people must seek help to improve themselves and make the world a better place.



Pictures courtesy of Google

Robin Williams Dead At 63

By: Chelsea Kun

On August 11th, 2014, actor and comedian Robin Williams committed suicide at the age 63 years old. The beloved actor was battling depression, which was the cause of this terrible event.

"I do think that he died too young," Angela Calderon, student at

WAHS, says about the beloved actor. "Even though he was 63, he never really grew up. He was always a kid at heart."

Many fans agree that Robin Williams is one of the greatest actors of all time. He was in many wonderful films. "There will be actors that will try to be

like him," Angela Calderon says, "but it will be very hard to fill his shoes." Williams was an epic, talented personality who will be truly missed.

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Trouble with ISIS

By: Ashley Emann

In the last few months ISIS has made a name for itself with the three gruesome deaths of both British and American people. However, although increasingly infamous, this militant group has become, very few of the public really know who they are or where they came from. As an acronym for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or just the Islamic State, ISIS is a terrorist group that contained the third generation of Al-Qaeda participants, as well as smaller Sunni insurgent

groups. Having gained popularity in Iraq and then Syria during the Syrian Civil War, ISIS soon had an established presence in both countries. By February of 2014, the more frenzied and monstrous personnel of ISIS caused a drift and then the eventual split between Al-Qaeda and themselves. Those who remained set out upon wreaking havoc and despair among civilians. Using public beheadings as well as other barbaric abuses, the civilian population has suffered while

ISIS has gained control. The most disturbing issue about ISIS is its ability to bring in new soldiers of all ethnicities and its inability to have any type of moral boundary. Their sphere of influence has reached as far out as of England and even more west than that with believed profit coming from the United States. The President, as well as Congress, hope that the use of air strikes will help prevent ISIS from taking more control in the middle-east. Hopefully their efforts will prevail and ISIS will fall.

“Womonomics” in Japan

By: Taylor Garrison

Japan is beginning a program called “womonomics,” which is designed to increase the number of women in the male dominated workplace. Japan’s Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, and his wife, Akie Abe, are the main leaders of the womonomics program. The Abes hope to help Japanese women become thirty percent of the leadership positions by 2020.

The womonomics program will also undertake fixing the many problems facing women in the

workplace. It is difficult for women to get into the male controlled world of Japanese politics. When a woman is elected, she faces a large amount of sexism. Ayaka Shiomura, an assemblywoman, was recently verbally harassed by a male political figure when giving a speech. This drew the needed attention to the daily sexism women leaders in Japan face. Many Japanese women in normal working positions feel they must quit their jobs when they have children because Japanese companies normally

keeping them from being healthy and spending time with their children. Working women in Japan can easily suffer miscarriages due to the stressful work environment. The program is said to not only be beneficial for Japanese women, but also helpful to the economy. The economy could be much stronger with the increased addition of women in the workplace.



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

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Wild Weather

By: Michael Jablonski

This summer has brought some interesting weather to the United States.

In California, droughts are ravaging the area, causing crops to die. Droughts are also bad news for firefighters trying to quench the fires raging on the West Coast. On a more

positive note, there were only 27 tornadoes that occurred in August. By comparison, the United States usually gets an average of 81 tornadoes in that month. Meanwhile, Hawaii had quite a surprise when it experienced not one but two hurricanes heading their way in early August.

Prior to hurricanes Iselle and Julio, Hawaii had not had a hurricane in more than 20 years.



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

Girls Tennis: The Best Season Yet

By: Allison Reiter

Wilson Girls Tennis has been having one of the best seasons in recent years. The lady Warriors ended the season with a 5-11 record, a better record than 3 of our rival schools. Returning sophomore, Tyra Ott, continued to dominate on the court with a record of 11-2. She was voted Lehigh Valley Live player of the week and is expected to make an exemplary showing at districts and states. She won districts last year and placed second at states! Team Captain Emily Reiter credits a strong team effort by all the members for the improvement in the record

this season.

First doubles senior, Emily Oberreiter and junior, Jamie Sine had a record of 7-9. Second singles senior, Emily Reiter had a record of 4-11. They contributed greatly to the overall success of the team. Third singles senior Shannon Mattes, second doubles senior, Kelsey Oberreiter and junior, Brahmleen Chaggar, and junior Aaliyah Sesay all had wins this year too. The girls had a great time playing together and encourage other students to join the team. The lady Warriors enjoyed having additional help from Wilson graduate Chris Ott.

He began getting his clearances to assistant coach. With Coach Glen Rossetti, they worked hard on many skills. Captain Emily Reiter says, "playing tennis has been one of the highlights of my years at Wilson. I made lasting friendships and had a lot of fun!"

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Boys Soccer

By: Phil Pierfy

First year coach Paul Stewart has created a new mindset on the Wilson Area soccer team, and the team has backed their new coach with solid play. Coach Stewart recruited two first year seniors, including myself, to join the team and play. Fellow senior Matt Boerchers also decided to play and has become one of our team's anchors on defense. According to Matt, the coaching change, along with a previous love for the game, drove him to play for the team, "I love Stewart and I

love FIFA", Boerchers said. The team returned a core of talented juniors, led by Ryan Grelle, Kevyn Mitchell, and Erik Wallace. After losing two games in our opening tournament, the team started Colonial League play 2-0-1 to tie for the division lead. Since then, the team has struggled against extremely tough competition. However, even in the worst losses there are flashes of brilliance. One factor that never changes is Coach Stewart's mindset. Players have been impressed all

year with Coach Stewart's endless reserve of enthusiasm and encouragement. Matt has also been impressed. "His positivity and desire to keep fighting until the end of every game," said Boerchers when asked what impressed him the most. Behind Stewart's leadership, the program has an exciting future ahead.



The Race to Victory

By: Annabelle Gaardsmoe

After starting the season out strong, the cross country team continues to push themselves on their path to a successful season. After qualifying for the state meet last year, the girls' team plans on returning this year with a team full of old and new runners. Last year the girls had their most triumphant season in over a decade. The boys are also aiming high this season and remain hopeful as the season continues. The current record for the girls team this season is 15-2 while the boys is 14-3. With around sixty

kids running cross country, this year's team is the biggest in school history! Everyone is encouraged to join whether they have running experience or not since Coach Browne is always happy to see new athletes. Good luck to cross country runners this year in your strides to victory!



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

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Football

By: Phil Pierfy



With a wave of student support behind them, the Wilson Area football team has shown improvement in nearly all areas over last year's tough season. The team has been within striking distance in almost every game, but has suffered heart breaking losses. "There is a noticeable improvement in team unity and effort," captain Nick Labatch said. In week two, going up against one of the pre-season league favorites Southern Lehigh, the team fell to an early 14-0 deficit. The senior leader-

ship would not let the team quit. On their next drive, Nick Maston hit Nick Arcury for a 66 yard touchdown, which brought the crowd back to life. Before halftime, the Warriors struck again with a touchdown to Izayah Johnson and closed the half down 19-14. After a defensive stand, the Warriors methodically drove the length of the field to take a 21-19 lead. In the end, Southern would win 40-20 on the strength of 3 fourth quarter touchdowns, but the Warriors proved they would pose

a serious threat to any opponent. Through six games, Labatch has led the team in rushing with 647 yards and five touchdowns. Fellow seniors Nick Arcury and Izayah Johnson are the leaders of the air attack with 152 and 130 yards receiving respectively and 1 touchdown each. Faithfully backing the team up at each of their games has been the recently revived student section. "The tribe makes us all feel supported by our school, and reminds us we have people who believe in us," Labatch said. With the heart and determination the team shows every week, it is easy to see why.

Pulp Fiction Review

By: Ryan O'Brien



Pictures courtesy of Google

Since this is my first film review for the newspaper, I figured I might as well review my favorite film of all time. Pulp Fiction is a multi-Oscar nominated film from 1994. It stars John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, and Harvey Keitel, just to name a few. It is directed by Quentin Tarantino, and written by him and Roger Avary.

The film has in my opinion the best script ever written. Tarantino's use of common chatter and ran-

dom dialogue was unprecedented, at the time. Many films have tried to copy this style since the film's release, but none can match its greatness. Even Tarantino's newer films can't match the true impact Pulp Fiction had on the world of cinema.

Many believe the film should have one Best Picture in 1994 over Forrest Gump. I firmly believe the Academy only allowed Forrest Gump to win because of how controversial Pulp Fiction was

when it was released. The directing from Tarantino was not matched by Robert Zemeckis, who directed Forrest Gump.

The performances in the film were simply amazing. I believe Samuel L. Jackson's performance as Jules, is the greatest performance ever to not win an Oscar, although it was nominated. The whole film was groundbreaking and changed the world of cinema forever. I'd rate the film a confident 10/10!

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Senior Stressors

By: Shelby Soliwoda

As freshman in high school, senior year seems too far away to even think about. Between experiencing high school for the first time to deciding what you want to do for the rest of your life, it becomes easy to cast aside the dream of graduation. Then, without you ever noticing how fast time is flying, it's here and it hits you like a brick wall. Whoever said senior year was easy, surely was not trying to balance ACTs, SATs, numerous AP and honors classes, sports teams, seemingly every extracurricular activity, community service, college applications, schol-

arship applications, jobs, and graduation projects all at once.

Quite possibly, senior year may be the most stressful and anxiety ridden circumstance the class of 2015 has ever had to deal with. Perhaps the most frustrating obstacles to overcome are the deadlines. Deadlines for applications, projects, and financial aid are all due in the next couple of months and the weeks seem to be running out. The college process begins and ends with these deadlines and it is imperative that they are followed and understood.

The first step toward being accepted into a dream college is figuring out where you want to go and then building your resume based upon the requirements of that particular school. Most students have been focusing on this task since junior year. However, only now are these stressors reaching their climax. We must remember that even though senior year often times makes us want to rip our hair out, it is a time to reflect upon our high school experiences and understand that this will all be over soon. Class of 2015, your dreams are ahead of you and you will reach them!

iPhone 6 Review

By: Mike Petrozzo

Apple has released the iPhone 6; their newest edition. It's much thinner, has a bigger display, and a faster processor. It also has some new gadgets added, including Touch ID, where you have the ability to unlock your phone using your fingerprints, and the ability to purchase from iTunes or the App Store

without having to enter your password. Another new feature is Apple Pay, this is where you can actually make your purchases from a credit card using your phone. Overall, the iPhone 6 is Apple's biggest enhancement to the iPhone line yet.



Pictures courtesy of Google

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PSAT and SAT Success

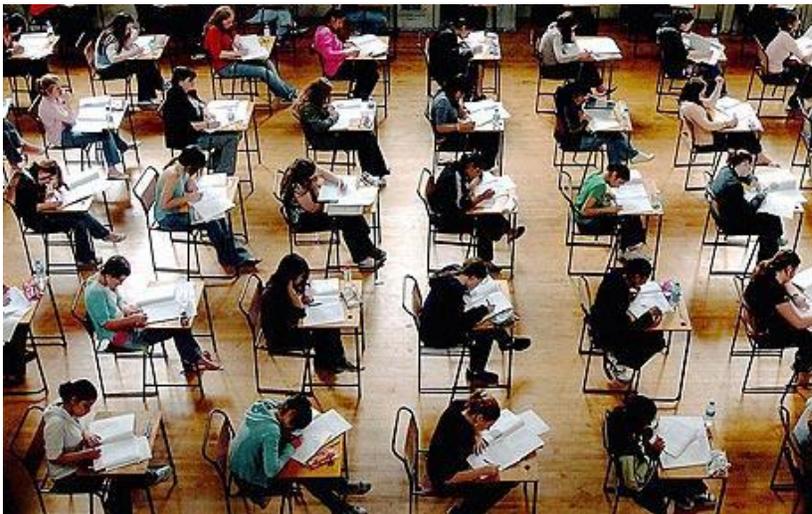
By: Scott Marceca

It's that time of year again. The PSAT and SAT are right around the corner. These tests may seem overhyped; however, they can heavily influence college admissions and merit scholarships. The SAT is composed of three sections: critical reading, writing, and math. It is administered almost every month between October and June. Each section is worth 800 points. It is essential that students take these exams seriously.

Thousands of dollars can be awarded to students from certain colleges for scoring well on the SAT.

The PSAT, a practice version of the SAT, is primarily offered to sophomores and juniors in October. Juniors who take the PSAT have the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships. Eligible students must attain the cutoff score or higher in their state. For the Class of 2015, the Pennsylvania cutoff score for National Merit Semifinalists was a 216, which is equivalent to a 2160 on the SAT. Becoming a National Merit Semifinalist is highly prestigious, and many colleges offer semifinalists half and full-tuition scholarships.

Students have multiple options to study for these exams. The Official SAT Study Guide by The College Board features 10 official practice tests. Furthermore, students can take an SAT prep class, but this can be costly. No matter which option you choose, be sure to practice often and try your best!



Pictures courtesy of *Google*