September, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians of Rising Ninth Grade Students:

On October 15, 2014, ninth grade students at Oakton HS will be participating in the ReadiStep assessment instead of the PSAT. Readiestep is a college readiness assessment aligned with the PSAT and developed for 9th grade students. FCPS has arranged to administer the ReadiStep test to all ninth grade students without cost.

Additional information about the registration process will be in the back-to-school packets in August.

The ReadiStep assessment provides students information about their knowledge, skills, interests, and helps them to plan out their high school course choices as well as providing excellent practice for taking the PSAT in as a 10th and/or 11th grader and the SAT in preparation for college entrance application. In addition, the ReadiStep results will help students identify their strengths and will allow them opportunities to make decisions on course enrollment in Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

The test is three sections of multiple choice questions: Reading, Writing and Math, taking approximately three hours. There are no essay or student-produced response questions. Unlike the current PSAT which penalizes for incorrect answers, the Readiestep uses “correct-answer only” scoring which encourages students to attempt all questions and will align with the new SAT being developed.

Additional information about the ReadiStep test can be found at: www.readistep.collegeboard.org

Students with disabilities who have been identified for testing accommodations in a 504 plan or an IEP (Individualized Education Program) may request accommodations for the ReadiStep (in line with the accommodations designated on either the 504 or IEP) by contacting: John Glufling at jaglufling@fcps.edu no later than Wednesday, October 1, 2014.

Students may prepare for the ReadiStep assessment by getting a good night’s sleep prior to the test, and eating breakfast the morning of the test. I encourage you to discuss the testing with your student.

Best wishes to you and your student.

Sincerely,

John Banbury
Principal, Oakton High School