



# ARDSLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Matthew J. Block  
*Superintendent of Schools*

September 4, 2024

Dear Ardsley Families:

I write to inform you of an important new effort to enhance communication between our schools and families and to help you and your child better monitor their academic progress. Beginning in the second marking period this year, all secondary teachers (grades 5-12) will provide students and parents with access to student grades, online through the eSchoolData portal. Starting November 15, 2024, grades will be posted regularly on the Gradebook tab of the portal so that you may see what assignments and assessments your student has completed, and how they are progressing throughout the year. The Gradebook function will be closed from 7am - 3pm on school days to allow students to focus on their classes while in school, but will be open for viewing at all other times.

Providing open online gradebook access will be new for all of us, including our teachers. We ask for your patience as we all adjust to this new tool. Over the course of the next two months we will be working to create guidelines for families and teachers to help make the online gradebooks a productive and positive tool for helping students better understand their academic progress and to seek support when needed. These guidelines will be shared with students and families and posted on the district website prior to opening the online gradebook in November. The guidelines will include general time frames for teachers to return assessments and post grades. They will also describe expectations for families, as patience and understanding will be necessary as students and parents are able to view grades in real time.

We believe this development will encourage students to monitor their own growth, not just in terms of grades, but also in terms of the knowledge and skills that they will need in the future. We hope the online gradebooks will help you and your child monitor their academic progress together. We expect that this medium will help you encourage your child to seek support from teachers as needed. Online gradebooks should encourage conversations at home about learning and about a student's strengths and areas of need.

As we previously mentioned, we will send families the guidelines and post them to the website once they are complete. We look forward to navigating this new approach together with you.

We wish you and your families a great start to the 2024-2025 school year.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools