
Welcome Sophomore Parents!

— Ardsley High School Guidance
Department —



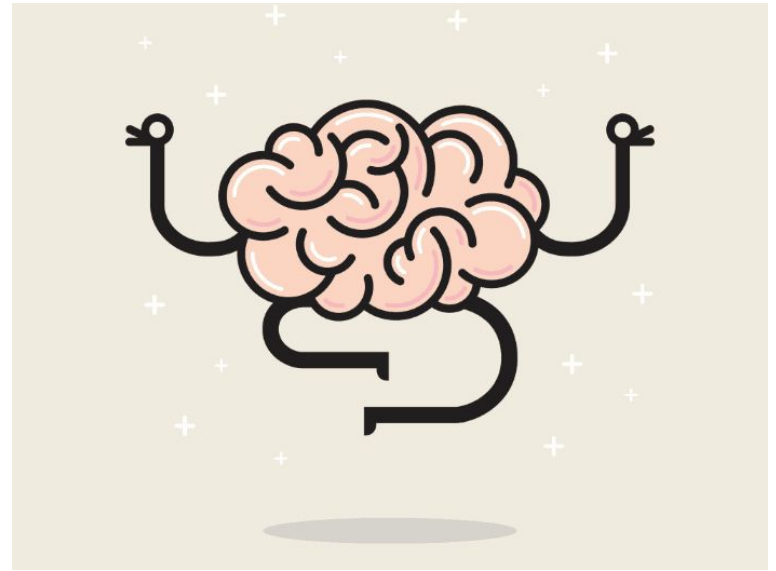
Mr. Brendan Granstrand

Welcome!

- Focus for the year:
Attendance and Punctuality
- Feel free to reach out at any time
bgranstrand@ardsleyschools.org

Mindful Activity

Let's all take a moment to get
our minds in a space to
remember what it was like to be
in high school as a sophomore...



Let's take it back

Remember sophomore year

You are are around 15 years old...

Pre-internet

Pre-cell phones

Brochures and booklets provided information to you

Teachers used chalk boards instead of smart boards

Where we are at now

We have met individually with every sophomore!

They have access to the Counseling Google Classroom which houses information about college, summer programs, and primary way of communicating to students

Reviewed their first quarters

Introduced each student to Naviance

Setting the Stage

- Sophomore year is a valuable time for students to develop behaviors and habits that keep future opportunities open:



- **Scholastic Record**
- **Extracurricular Activities**
- **Personal Factors**
- **Standardized Tests**

Mining the Data: Scholastic Record

All Years Count!

- Course Selection
- Appropriate Academic Courses
- Demanding Course Load
- Grades Sequencing
- Quality Trend



Course Selection



During the Winter, students will be provided the Course Catalog

This will list all the possible courses that are projected to be offered

Students and families should get familiar of the pathways available to students

We will meet with students in early February to complete their Course Requests for the following year

Having prior knowledge of courses can help make the planning process easier

Understanding AP Criteria and Application

Ardsley High School offers 18 different AP courses

They make up both core academic classes and elective courses

Students will be asked to apply to determine eligibility for AP courses

They must be approved for each individual course to be eligible to request the course

Many of the courses will have prerequisites and grade requirements to determine eligibility

Some courses will require an entrance exam

Students may have the ability to appeal if they are not granted initial access

Requests do not guarantee availability or entrance into the course

Boces



Southern Westchester BOCES offers career and technical education

Afternoon programs are available to Junior and Senior students.

BOCES provides career/vocational training and certification

Students will earn credit toward graduation

Reach out to your School Counselor for more information

BOCES Site visit on January 7th!

Beyond the Classroom

Extracurricular Activities

- **Out of classroom Experiences**
 - **Duration/Commitment**
 - **School Related**
 - **Community Related**
 - **Summer Opportunities**
 - **Quality over quantity**
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Uniquely You: Personal Factors

- Interests
- Strengths
- Special Talent
- Character
- Intellectual Curiosity
- Special Circumstances
- Is Growth Evident?



Please Be Aware!

The College Board is shifting to a completely Digital Administration of exams

What's staying the same?

- The digital SAT Suite continues to measure the knowledge and skills that matter most for college and career readiness
- The **digital SAT** is scored on a **1600 scale**
- The College Board will **continue to support** all students, including those who **receive accommodations** on test day
- The **digital SAT** is **administered** in a **school** or in a **test center** with a proctor present (not at home)
- Students have access to free, world-class practice resources on Khan Academy
- Students continue to connect directly to scholarships and **College Board National Recognition Programs**

Please Be Aware!

The College Board is shifting to a completely Digital Administration of exams

What's changing?

- Students will take the SAT Suite assessments on a laptop or tablet. If students do not have a device, one will be provided on test day
- Each assessment in the SAT Suite will be shorter – total test time will be about **two** hours instead of **three**
- Students and educators will receive scores faster – in **days**, not **weeks**
- **Calculators** will be allowed on the **entire** math section
- Score reports from the SAT Suite will connect students to more relevant information, including topics such as two-year colleges and career and workforce training programs
- The digital SAT Suite will be more secure and flexible. **Each student** will get a **unique version** of the test.

PSAT

- Practice exam for all students taking the SAT
- Scores from the October, 26th PSAT have been released to all students
- Students were able to use their own personal devices or were provided with a school device to take the exam
- Shorter test than the paper and pencil exam
- All Juniors should sit for this exam as it will qualify them for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
- Diagnostic Exam with Detailed Score Report

The ACT

ACT (ACT.org)

- English, Math, Reading, Science
- Each Section is Scaled from 1- 36 points
- Total ACT is an Average of the Section Scores (also scaled from 1-36)



(Un)Necessary Evil

Testing Process

- Students may take either the SAT or the ACT
 - Some colleges will take the best scores from multiple test dates that the student submits
 - It is the student's responsibility to request official test scores from SAT/ACT
 - There is a growing trend of test-optional schools (fairtest.org)
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Trust the process...



Post Secondary Planning is a process...

Although it is easy to jump ahead and focus on “College”, your child will be better served exploring who they are and what they are interested in

Keep in mind what things are important to your child?

It is a great opportunity for self-reflection and to be flexible through this journey

Getting to know Naviance

Naviance is a helpful tool and platform for students to begin exploring their interests for life after high school in addition to conducting college research

This includes:

- Career Interest Inventories
- Strengths Explorer/RoadTrip Nation
- College Admission Scattergrams
- Major/Minor Search Engines



Some Good Ideas for Self-Exploration

- Enroll in a summer enrichment program/camp
- Find a summer job
- Participate in sports or performing arts opportunities
- On-Campus College tours and programs
- Get creative!
 - Many students have found ways to connect to others locally
- Seek online enrichment opportunities
- Colleges offer virtual summer programs
- Work a part time job

Takeaways

- **Have an open and honest conversation with your children about their passions and thoughts for the future.**
- **Find opportunities for your children to explore who they are.**
- **Always feel free to reach out. This is a collaborative effort and we are always a phone call or email away.**

College Myths

- Applying “Early” to college assures an acceptance
- Colleges are need-blind in evaluating applicants applying for financial aid
- Financial aid awards are free grants and are not debt instruments
- If a student takes five AP classes in high school, they are accepted into the best colleges...
- Electronic processing is always accurate.
- Because the college coach says he/she wants me, I will be accepted
- Attending a pre-college summer program at a college gives me a leg up in admission.

Interesting College Facts

- There are over 27,000 high schools in the United States. Over the past 15 years, 1 in 11 students at Harvard have come from just 21 high schools, so basically, 9.1% of Harvard students come from .07% of US Schools.
- UMASS just received a record number of Early Action Applications this year of over 30,000, yet they will still end up admitting about the same incoming class for next year, thus, producing a lower acceptance rate. When a college receives a higher number of applications, it can appear more selective, which can enhance its reputation. A college that is perceived as selective often attracts more high-achieving students.
- Understand the importance of searching beyond the name brands in today's college application landscape!

Meet the Staff

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