

School Counseling Department

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Our vision is connect, engage, and inspire all students in the Ayer Shirley Regional School District to reach academic excellence. We, the educators of the Ayer Shirley Regional School District will instill habits of reflection and inquiry to challenge our students in setting ambitious academic and personal goals. Students will develop a strong voice to express their thoughts and ideas in the community, and the confidence to showcase their talents and successes in preparation for entry into college and the world of work.

December 21, 2017

Happy Holidays! We hope that everyone has time to relax and enjoy the season.

We have several important reminders for **seniors**:

If students have heard from the colleges to which they have applied, please indicate the result in the Family Connection and bring acceptance letters in to Mrs. Wallace.

If you have submitted an application to college, please indicate so in Naviance/Family Connection.

If you are starting or in the process of completing college applications, please remember the following in Naviance/Family connection for **each** college:

- Request the transcript be sent
 - Request counselor recommendations where required in a timely manner
 - Indicate the correct deadline
 - If using the Common Application, complete the FERPA Waiver
 - Match your Naviance account with Common App on your Family Connection home page
 - Once you have submitted your application, update Naviance to indicate so
 - **Also** – send your official test scores directly through College Board or ACT at least 3 weeks before your application deadlines.
- Make sure you keep vacation periods in mind to give us adequate time to complete recommendations and prepare documents for you.
 - We still have dedicated D block on Monday and G Block on Wednesday to seniors. Seniors must come to the School Counseling office and put their name in the Senior Appointment Book. Students are expected to remember their appointments and to make up all missed work.
 - **All Community Service hours must be completed by March 1, 2018 to meet graduation obligations.**

Juniors – practice for the spring SAT by linking your College Board account with www.khanacademy.org now that your new PSAT scores are out. You should also have been using Family Connection to search for careers and colleges and putting colleges on your “colleges I’m thinking about” list.

It is time to **register** for the SATs with writing and/or the ACTs with writing. The writing section may be required by some colleges and universities, thus we recommend taking this portion of either or both tests.

Please keep in mind that the band/choir field trip is during the May SAT administration so you should sign up for the March 10th or June 2nd SAT dates; please see all test dates on the last page of this newsletter.

PSAT Scores If your child took the PSAT in October, the scores were released to students on December 13th. We met with students in grades 9, 10 and 11 last week to go over accessing scores, understanding scores, and linking their College Board account to Khan Academy for free, personalized practice. Your child should have created an account on College Board using the email address they put on their answer sheet. Students can share access to the College Board account with you. Please do not create a second account as that will create access problems for your child in the future.

The materials we used in the presentations to the students are on the school counseling page of the ASRHS website <https://www.asrsd.org/schools/high-school/hs-departments/counseling/> or you can use the College Board's resources directly at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scores/understanding-scores>.

Students were advised to link their College Board account with www.khanacademy.org to take advantage of free, personalized practice activities to improve their performance on the next College Board assessment (PSAT next year or SAT this spring). Create **one** account with your child so there is only one login.

We will be continuing to visit classrooms to instruct and assist students in the use of Family Connections in the coming months.

Student login instructions are on the Family Connection login page.

Students should review their second semester courses and make an appointment with their school counselor if they are interested in discussing a schedule change. Schedule changes must be requested no later than January 26, 2018.

Students are welcome to request an appointment to see us by visiting the School Counseling office before or after school and during lunch to complete an appointment request form. As always, School Counselors are available in emergency situations.

Parents wishing to meet with their child's school counselor are encouraged to schedule an appointment via email or telephone:

Cynthia Esielionis
cesielionis@asrsd.org
ext. 1305

Supporting students as follows:
Grade 9, Last Names Beginning with L – Z

Kim Sweetland
ksweetland@asrsd.org
ext. 1306

Supporting students as follows:
Grade 9, Last Names Beginning with A – K

Grade 10, Last Names Beginning with I – Z
 Grade 11, Last Names Beginning with I – Z
 Grade 12, Last Names Beginning with G – Z
 Special Assignments 9 – 12

Grade 10, Last Names Beginning with A – H
 Grade 11 Last Names Beginning with A – H
 Grade 12, Last Names Beginning with A – F
 Special Programs, Grades 9 - 12

Parents – make an appointment to meet with us during Parent Teacher Conferences on February 1, 2018 from 6-7:45 PM or the 2nd from 11:45-2:15 PM before our spots fill up!

College Admissions Testing

Below are the SAT and ACT test dates for the year. Registration for these tests is completed online either at www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org. Payment is made on the websites directly to the test provider.

We recommend that students take each test one time, in the spring of their junior year and retake whichever test they do better on in the fall of their senior year. We also recommend that students take the writing portion of the tests as some colleges and universities require it, some don't, and some may use it for placement in college level courses. Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch are also eligible for a limited number of SAT and ACT fee waivers.

SAT test dates and deadlines and anticipated score release

Test Date	Normal Deadline	Late Registration*	Online Score Release
March 10, 2018**	February 9, 2018	February 28, 2018	March 23-29, 2018
May 5, 2018	April 6, 2018	April 25, 2018	May 18-24, 2018
June 2, 2018	May 3, 2018	May 23, 2018	July 11, 2018

*The late registration deadline is one week earlier if you are registering by mail.

**Regular SAT only.

ACT test dates and deadlines and anticipated score release

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	Score Release*
Feb 10, 2018	Jan 12, 2018	Jan 19, 2018	Feb 2; Mar 6, 2018
Apr 14, 2018	Mar 9, 2018	Mar 23, 2018	Apr 24; May 8, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 18, 2018	June 19; July 3, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 22, 2018	July 24; Aug 7, 2018

*= Refers to online score release. The first date is when multiple choice scores come out, and the second one is when complete scores are available.