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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.

October 2017

As we advance into the college application season, we continue to rely on Naviance/Family Connection as the primary communication tool for the college application process. It is important that all students have an appropriate email in their profile and that they complete tasks as we assign them. Underclassmen are expected to complete tasks as assigned by grade level and in order to assist students in learning about themselves as they explore college and career paths; exploring their learning styles and interests will help students make better choices while considering post-secondary opportunities. We will be visiting 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 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. We have dedicated D block on Mondays 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.

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

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

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 A – H

Grade 11 Last Names Beginning with A – H

Grade 12, Last Names Beginning with A – F

Special Programs, Grades 9 - 12

Upcoming Events:

Ongoing Throughout the fall, **college admissions representatives** will be visiting Ayer Shirley Regional High School. A calendar of these visits and the sign up is on Family Connections. Seniors and Juniors are expected to sign up in Family Connection at least 24 hours in advance, remember their appointments and make up and work missed during class time. Students are also expected to let Mrs. Wallace in the School Counseling Office know if they cannot make an appointment. The current schedule of these visit is on the following page. Please continue to check for updates as visits are added regularly through the fall.

October 11th **PSAT** will be administered to ALL students in grades 9-11. It is critically important that all students arrive at school, on time and ready to test.

Grade 9 students will take the **PSAT™ 8/9 at school on Wednesday October 11 beginning at 7:30 AM.**

This test is a pressure-free way to start exploring their path to college and a future career.

It helps them:

1. Recognize strengths:

- A personalized online PSAT 8/9 score report will include detailed information about your child's strengths and areas for growth. It helps students lean into areas they're good at and identify places where they need to improve to be ready for college.

2. Explore future careers:

- Students can explore college majors and careers that align with their personal interests with Roadmap to Careers, a unique online tool created by Roadtrip Nation (also in Navaiance) and the College Board. The tool connects students to potential careers based on the things they love, showing where they can lead.

3. Choose high school courses:

- Knowing where they excel and what skills they should work on can help them choose other 9th- and 10th- grade classes.
- In addition, student score reports will suggest AP® courses that are a great match for them. AP can give your child an edge in the admission process and allows them to earn college credit while in high school, which could save time and money in college

Students in grades 10 and 11 will take **the PSAT/NMSQT® at school on Wednesday October 11 beginning at 7:30 AM.**

This test is a chance to become a National Merit® Scholar as a grade 11 student, and it also offers these benefits:

1. Connect to scholarships:

- When students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they have an opportunity to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships.
- The test also connects them to \$160 million in scholarships from one of the largest scholarship pools in the country. Students should check "Yes" to Student Search Service® on the day of the test so that scholarship partners can find them.

2. Free, personalized SAT practice:

- The PSAT/NMSQT is great preparation for the SAT®. Your teen's score even unlocks a personalized SAT study plan on Khan Academy®.
- It's completely free. Students simply go to satpractice.org, create an account, and link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get a study plan based on their test results.

3. AP course recommendations:

- Student score reports will suggest AP® courses that are a great match for them. AP can give your teen an edge in the admission process and allows them to earn college credit while in high school, which could save time and money in college.

PSAT Resources:

- What are the benefits of taking the PSAT? <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/benefits>
- SAT Suite of Assessments: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/>
Learn about *all* of the SAT assessments and how they align.
- PSAT 8/9 Student guide:
https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-8-9-student-guide-2017-18.pdf?ep_mid=11405323&ep_rid=161930688
- PAST/NMSQT Student Guide:
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/official-student-guide-psat-nmsqt-2017.pdf>

Scheduled College Representative Visits

College	Representative	Date and Time
Franklin Pierce	Jason Klem	10/2/2017 10:00
Umass Lowell	Doug Seed	10/4/2017 10:00
Johnson & Wales	Fran	10/4/2017 12:00
Umass Boston	Charlie Crayton	10/5/2017 9:30
Universal Technical Institute	Derek Sullivan	10/6/2017 9:00
Fitchburg State Univ	Alexandra	10/6/2017 12:00
Assumption College	Christopher Miemiec	10/10/2017 9:00
Boston University	Griffin Monahan	10/10/2017 10:15
University of NH	Karoline Goulart	10/12/2017 8:00
Lesley Univ	Courtney Flint	10/12/2017 13:00
Lyndon State College	Lexi Damato	10/13/2017 10:00
St Anselm College	Tony Trodella	10/16/2017 8:00
Middlesex Community College	Jason	10/16/2017 13:00
Westfield State Univ	Aaliyah	10/17/2017 12:00
Western NE Univ	Marcus	10/19/2017 12:30
Colby-Sawyer	Brian Gallagher	10/19/2017 13:00
MWCC	Lexi	10/20/2017 13:00
Mt Ida College	Ashley Willis	10/23/2017 8:30
Univ of Rhode Island	Ruby Morris-Jones	10/23/2017 9:30
Merrimack College	Rachael	10/24/2017 12:45
Southern New Hampshire University	Samantha O'Laughlin	10/27/2017 13:30
Umass Dartmouth	Brendan Miller	10/30/2017 13:00
Worcester State Univ	Chris Dooley	10/30/2017 21:00
Nichols College	Zach	10/31/2017 13:00
Framingham State University	John	11/1/2017 9:30

Lasell College	Jill Reitzell	11/1/2017 12:00
Curry	Kyle	11/1/2017 13:30
Sacred Heart	Adam	11/2/2017 9:00
Hofstra University	Carrie Novell	11/2/2017 11:30
Keene State College	Kevin Justice	11/9/2017 12:00

College Admissions Testing

On the next page 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
November 4, 2017	October 5, 2017	October 25, 2017	November 17-23, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 2, 2017	November 21, 2017	December 15-21, 2017
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*
Oct 28, 2017	Sept 22, 2017	Oct 6, 2017	Nov 7; Nov 21, 2017
Dec 9, 2017	Nov 3, 2017	Nov 17, 2017	Dec 19; Jan 2, 2018
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.