



# **Ardsley Union Free School District**

Challenging Minds, Building Character, Inspiring Excellence

## **A Great Place to Learn**

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### **I. Our Philosophy:**

We strive to inspire excellence in every student by providing an educational environment that not only challenges minds, but also helps build character. We believe every child is inherently curious with a desire to learn, explore, create and solve problems. It is our responsibility to appreciate the diverse interests and needs of our student body and to help every student recognize their full potential as learners.

In order to help our children succeed in a world of rapid change, we believe that our curriculum must continually evolve to incorporate new learning technologies. We must also support our teachers with ongoing professional development programs and encourage them to maximize their talents, passions, skills and knowledge for the benefit of our students.

Our District vision is built upon four pillars and is guiding not only our decision-making, but also our culture as a learning community.

**District Vision:**

**Building on a tradition of academic excellence and success for every student, we cultivate passionate learners and informed global citizens who actively influence their world.**

**Guiding Pillars:**

**Academic Excellence** - Maximizes personal potential and inspires collective achievement, so mastering curricular content is only the starting line and learning is tailored to needs, strengths and interests.

**Success for Every Student** - Is measured in a variety of ways. Our view of success reaches beyond academic performance and encompasses resilience, flexibility, tenacity, curiosity, creativity, empathy, determination and athletic and artistic expression.

**Passionate Learners** - Take full advantage of learning opportunities. They assume responsibility for their own learning, have courage to explore and take the initiative to discover their interests. They are self-motivated, demonstrate confidence, collaborate freely and share their discoveries.

**Global Citizens** - Engage in active inquiry to acquire knowledge that reflects the depth and breadth of the collective human experience. They influence their world by making positive, proactive choices about what to do with what they know to collaboratively effect change.

We believe the success of our District involves the collective efforts of a talented and caring staff, a dedicated Board of Education, enthusiastic students and involved parents. Together, we can guide our students to be successful in life, take civic responsibility, be caring and respectful individuals, and become healthy contributors with a life long desire to learn.

## II. Our Schools:

The Ardsley Union Free School District is a great place for students to gain the foundation needed to grow into tomorrow’s business and cultural leaders. Our extensive and broad curriculum, complemented by many after-school offerings, provides students with the opportunity to pursue their individual interests, natural talents and maximize their learning potential while in the District. The Ardsley School District is made up of three schools:

- **Concord Road School** (<http://concord.ardsleyschools.org>) offers full-time kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade and is accredited as a **National School of Excellence**.
- **Ardsley Middle School**, (<http://ms.ardsleyschools.org>) a **National Blue Ribbon** school, serves grades 5-8 with accelerated programs in math, science and language as well as a series of enrichment classes.
- **Ardsley High School** (<http://hs.ardsleyschools.org>) houses grades 9-12 with an emphasis on Regents level college preparatory subjects and a broad range of offerings to serve the needs of a diverse student body with varying interests and abilities. Ardsley High School was recently listed in the Top 15 of **America’s Best High Schools** by Newsweek magazine.

## III. Performance Statistics:

### Quick Stats

- 89.6% of the Class of 2015 went on to a four-year college and 9.1% to a two-year college;
- 45% of our college bound Class of 2015 attend Barron’s “Most Competitive” or “Highly Competitive” colleges;
- 91.2% of our AP test scores were at a level of 3, 4, or 5;
- The mean SAT score for the Class of 2015 was 1792;
- 99% of our classrooms have Smart Boards and all schools have access to the latest technology from Apple, Microsoft, HP, Google and more; all three campuses are Wi-Fi enabled;

### Outstanding College Admissions

College Admissions Data					
Year	% Students Attending 4 Year Colleges	% Students Attending 2 Year Colleges	% Students Going to Work/Military	% Students Accepted to Highly Competitive Colleges	% Students Accepted to Most Competitive Colleges
2015	89.6	9.1	1.1	27	18
2014	89.7	4.8	5.5	27	25
2013	94.8	4	1.2	29	18
2012	87.9	11.5	.6	22	20
2011	89.4	9.6	1.0	34	19

## Excellent Test Data

Regents Test Results						
Test	2013		2014		2015	
	% Passing	% Mastery	% Passing	% Mastery	% Passing	% Mastery
Global History	99	75	98	75	94	75
Algebra II/Trigonometry	94	63	90	60	87	58
Chemistry	98	44	99	50	96	50
Physics	98	65	100	60	100	72
Earth Science	81	8	90	26	85	15
Biology	100	89	100	91	100	87

*Regents Passing Rate*-A score on a Regents examination that exceeds 65.

*Regents Mastery Rate*-A score on a Regents examination that exceeds 85.

2014-15 English Language Arts State Assessment % by Level Scored				
Grade	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Grade 3	8.45	35.92	33.80	21.83
Grade 4	17.24	31.03	42.07	9.66
Grade 5	15.09	30.19	41.51	13.21
Grade 6	24.68	34.42	36.36	4.55
Grade 7	10.79	34.53	40.29	14.39
Grade 8	12.41	44.53	28.47	14.60

2014-15 Math State Assessment % by Level Scored				
Grade	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Grade 3	32.62	34.04	19.86	13.48
Grade 4	27.78	37.50	29.86	4.86
Grade 5	27.92	39.61	22.73	9.74
Grade 6	48.67	32.00	16.67	2.67
Grade 7	35.11	36.64	19.85	8.40
Grade 8	31.11	28.15	29.63	11.11

2014-15 Science State Assessment % by Level Scored				
Grade	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Grade 3				
Grade 4				
Grade 5				
Grade 6				
Grade 7				
Grade 8	19.59	64.95	13.40	2.06

## Competitive Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement Data				
Year	# AP Scholars	# AP Scholars with Honors	# AP Scholars with Distinction	# National Scholars
2012	33	19	33	6
2013	39	26	36	2
2014	25	11	33	1
2015	34	16	27	1

*AP Scholar-A* distinction granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more Advanced Placement exams on full year courses.

*AP Scholar with Honors*-Granted to students who receive an average grade of a least 3.25 on all exams taken, and grade of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams on full year courses.

*AP Scholar with Distinction*-Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grade of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams on full year course.

*National AP Scholar*-Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams on full year courses.

## Competitive Advanced Placement Results (continued)

Test	2012	2013	2014	2015
	% Students Scoring > 3	% Students Scoring > 3	% Students Scoring > 3	% Students Scoring > 3
Biology	100	95	100	94
Calculus AB	97	94	70	85
Calculus BC	100	100	100	94
Chemistry	100	100	100	96
Comparative Politics	90	80	100	88
English Language and Composition	98	97	100	100
English Literature and Composition	97	97	95	100
Environmental Science	94	100	88	95
French Language and Culture	100	100	89	70
Italian Language and Culture	-	-	100	100
Latin	57	60	38	50
Psychology	98	100	97	95
Spanish Language	75	89	100	95
Statistics	76	76	86	84
Studio Art	88	91	100	100
US Government Politics	81	89	100	100
US History	100	100	100	100

## IV. Sharing Successes (2014-2015SY):

### Student Achievement Highlights

- Two seniors have been named semi-finalists in the **2015 National Merit Scholarship Program**;
- Four AMS students received first place honors at the **Engineering Expo** held at White Plains High School;
- One AHS senior won a **National Medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**;
- Eight AHS DECA members earned medals at **the NYS Career Conference** and three students moved on to the Nationals;
- Sixty-nine AHS students were inducted into the **National Honor Society**;
- **AMS Math Counts** team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Regional Competition and a student was a National Winner for performance over five contests;
- **AHS Academic Challenge** team qualified for the National History Bowl in Arlington, VA;
- **AHS Science Olympiad** team won 'Gold' for the first time in Lower Hudson Valley Regional Competition;
- AHS is one of three schools in Westchester to offer the **Cambridge Global Perspective** research class;
- Eight students in the new three-year **Science Research Program** competed at WESEF (Westchester Science and Engineering Fair) and earned awards recognizing outstanding work;
- AHS joined the **Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA)** program and offers Forensic Science to seniors for college credit;
- Over 35 students' **art work** was shown at Pace University, the Atria Woodlands, Concordia College, and the Katonah Museum;
- Over 48 students from all three schools have participated in **NYSSMA All-State Festivals**, Bands, Orchestras and Choruses;
- The **Ardsley High School Jazz Ensemble** placed second in the Sleepy Hollow Jazz Festival;
- AHS Football, Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Girls Bowling and Girls and Boys Fencing Team were all **League Champions**;
- Ardsley Cheerleaders placed second at the **Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational**;
- Girls Basketball Team advanced to the **Sectional Championship**;
- Student athletes have been recognized as Players of the Year by the Enterprise (Skiing, Swimmer, Soccer and Volleyball); Section 1- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Champions (Wrestling);
- A focus on global citizenship as evident through classroom lessons and hands-on programs such as ArdsleyCares, Food Drives, Sneaker Drives, Pajama Drives and more.

## V. Before and After School Programs:

The District supports a number of after-school childcare, athletic and extra/co-curricular activities and programs.

### **Before and After-school Childcare:**

In support of our working parents, the District houses two independently run programs at Concord Road School and the Ardsley Middle School, the [Ardsley Children Center and PALs Program](http://www.ardsleychildrenscenter.org) respectively. (www.ardsleychildrenscenter.org) These programs are recreational and exclusively for children who attend the Ardsley School District and whose parents work or are pursuing an education. For more information, please visit their website.

### **Co-Curricular and Athletic Programs:**

At the **Concord Road School**, girls with an interest in science can join the Marie Curie Society to further explore their curiosity. All boys are invited to join "Boys Who Read and Write" to share their feedback through a blog on books, magazines and articles. In addition, fee-based after-school programs are made available in the fall and spring to all students. Examples of classes include Beginning Spanish, Educational Games on Computers, Jewelry Making, Sports and Games, and more.

**Ardsley Middle School** students have a variety of programs to explore. For modified sports we offer baseball, lacrosse, basketball, wrestling, football, soccer, volleyball, softball, track and swimming. Students who have a passion for math and science can participate in Math Counts and/or Science Olympiad to enhance their skills and join regional, state and national level competitions. Those students who wish to further explore their performance talents can participate in an annual musical production or in musical groups such as the The Outcast, The Jazz Band, Troubadours or Madrigal Choir. We also have an active student council that organizes evening events including dances, recreation programs and community service events. Two additional student clubs help to publish the Yearbook and newspaper, The Cougar News.

Every student at **Ardsley High School** is encouraged to participate in one or more extra/co-curricular activities in the areas of athletics, music, drama, and subject-oriented clubs. Current athletic offerings include baseball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, cross country, fencing, lacrosse, golf, skiing, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling. Co-curricular activities include joining such groups as the Academic Challenge Team, African American Club, Art Club, Asian Club, Book Club, Chess Club, Robotic Club, the Criterion (literary magazine), Drama Club, French Club, Film Club, Gay/Straight Alliance, Key Club, Math Team, Mock Trial Team, Model UN, National Honor Society, Political Awareness Club, Spanish Club, and Student Council. Complimenting an active music performance program of Band, Orchestra, and Chorus are after-school audition groups in Select Chorus, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Pep Band. (The Select Chorus has performed at the Vatican and the Cathedral at Notre Dame. Last year they toured in the Czech Republic and Austria.)

## **VI. Recent Press Articles and posts**

Over the past 24 months, there have been over 100 news articles on our school and the success of our students. Below is a sampling and a full listing can be found on our website in the "[Press Box](#)" under the District tab. ([www.ardsleyschools.org](http://www.ardsleyschools.org))

*High school forensics class delves into grisly details* – Ardsley High School offers the Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) program and offers Forensic Science to seniors for college credit;

*Kudos for students in science research program* – Ardsley High School hosts annual Science Research Symposium with presentations from 10 sophomores enrolled in celebrated three-year science research program;

*Science Olympiads strike gold at tourney* – Ardsley High School took first place in the Lower Hudson Valley Regional Competition of Science Olympiad;

*Smart Dust earns honor for 12-year olds* – a team of four Ardsley Middle School students won first-place honors at the Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo;

*School turns to fictional hamster for kindness lessons* - Concord Road selects "the World according to Humphrey" for its new "one School – One Book" initiative and teaches children about respect, tolerance and kindness;

*New a cappella club in perfect harmony at middle school* – Twin sisters took the initiative to form an after-school club;

*Countywide day of caring keeps growing* – The sixth annual ArdsleyCares Day, a PTA organized day of hands-on family volunteering, draws over 675 volunteers to help those less fortunate throughout Westchester;

*In your view:* Ardsley Residents talk about Ardsley and our schools.

## **VII. Social Media**

For a peek into our classrooms, please visit our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/ardsleyschooldistrict>). Here you will find news of many programs including our [on-line art gallery](#), a third grade classes participation in a [TED talk conference](#) and much more.

For interesting articles on educational trends, visit our Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/ardsleyschools>)