



HIGHLIGHTING THE REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Noteworthy News

AHS Cambridge Research Program Explores Global Topics



(Scroll down for full list of students and their research topics)

What policies best address sexual assaults on college campuses? Is improvisation in Jazz truly improvised? Should marijuana be used to treat medical conditions in place of pharmaceuticals? Is it justified to ban the burqa? These are just some of the questions ten Ardsley High School seniors have spent the last year and a half researching in their **Cambridge Pre-University Global Perspectives in Research** course.

Research skills are highly valued in any career and students who have completed primary research in high school can stand out when applying for college. Research teaches students to ask good questions, to go beyond the surface, to be patient and to focus. The Cambridge course, which is recognized and valued by leading universities and employers worldwide, is specifically designed to hone critical thinking skills and broaden a student's global perspective.

The hardest question students answer is the first: what are you interested in? Students choose their own path and begin the program by deciding on a subject they feel passionate about and are truly interested in learning more about throughout the year. Using a self-directed learning model, students are able to explore topics not taught in any traditional class, are truly self-motivated and build life-long skills to pursue their curiosities.

Students look at every question in four broad steps: deconstruction; reconstruction; reflection; and communication. Through the steps, students analyze the structure and context of arguments; assess the impact and limitations of the evidence and arrive at well-informed opinions. They then organize their finding into a structured and convincing Independent Research Report (IRR).

The Cambridge program, which is only available in four high schools in the Hudson Valley Region, was first introduced in Ardsley in 2011 and uses a co-teaching model between Social Studies and English. We thank our community for supporting such innovative programs in our district and teachers

Jason Simone and Tiffany Moleski, who went through extensive initial training to qualify our program and continue to attend ongoing education sessions.

Congratulations to our Cambridge 2017 Researchers

- **Dhamar Blanco** -What policies best address sexual assaults on College campuses?
- **Samuel Caldwell** - Is improvisation in Jazz truly improvised
- **Sophia Closter** - To what extent are standardized tests impacting teaching and learning in the classroom?
- **Rebecca Harris** - To what extent does one's mindset influence one's achievements?
- **Lauren Hirth** - What is the most effective method for treating ADHD?
- **Spencer Hoffman** - How beneficial (if at all) is playing youth sports for a child's development?
- **Shannon Hurley** - Should Marijuana be used to treat medical conditions in place of pharmaceuticals?
- **Robert Mathew** - What role is technology playing in academic success?
- **Marc Thurston** - Is it justified to ban the burqa?
- **Russell Wong** - To what extent is the theory of relativity accurate?