



# The Husky Compass

The Harrison High School Guidance Department



Senior class of 2010 valedictorian, Matthew Jacobson and salutatorian, Alison Nathanson

## Scholars Announced

**Valedictorian and Salutatorian Honors:** Harrison High School Principal, Dr. James A. Ruck, surprised senior class students Matthew Jacobson and Alison Nathanson with a call down to the principal's office. Joined by their counselors, Ms. Kristy Kiernan and Ms. Renee Katzenberg, respectively, Dr. Ruck shared an important message, "We could not be prouder of your accomplishments. It gives me great honor to share with you, Matthew, that you are the class valedictorian and Alison, you are the salutatorian. There could be no finer representatives of academic excellence." Af-

ter sharing the announcement and a few photo moments, each student had an opportunity to call home to share the good news.

Dr. Ruck also announced this year's **Commended Students** from the National Merit Scholarship Program: Matthew Jacobson, Jordan Pernin, and Emily Singer. The students were recognized for exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT/

NMSQT. The students placed in the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students nationwide who were part of the competition.

Dr. Ruck said, "We take great pride in all our students' accomplishments."

Students should receive individual results from this year's October PSAT in December.

## Financial Aid Night—December 1

On Tuesday, December 1, 2009, Harrison High School will host financial aid night and planning for college. The evening will begin at 7:00pm in the HPAC.

All high school parents are invited to attend. The earlier families begin learning

about paying for college, the better.

This program is intended for parents of all high school students. Now is the time to begin focusing on the complexity of college financial aid.

For seniors there are certain choices you must make before December 31, 2009. Even if you have enough money set aside to pay for the cost of college, there may be a much more financially effective way to pay for college.

(continued on pg. 4)

## Upcoming Events

Financial Aid Night at HHS, 7:00pm	Dec. 1
2nd Qtr. Progress Report Period Ends	Dec. 11
Post High School Planning Orientation for Junior Parents, 7:00pm	Jan. 7
Regents/Midterm Week	Jan. 25-29
2nd Marking Period Ends	Jan. 29
AP Scholar Recognition Night, 7:00pm	Feb. 4

## College Planning

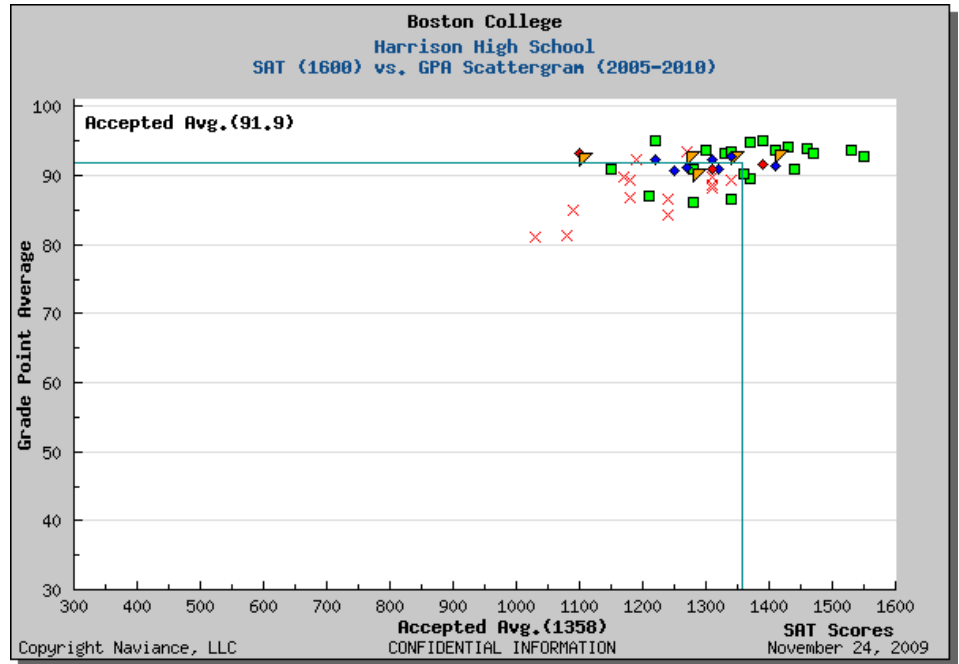
- **Seniors:** Continue completing college applications providing a two week turn around for processing out of the high school.
- Be on the look out for early decision/action responses if applied as such and notify your counselor of all decision outcomes.
- Attend the financial aid night.





*Naviance: Family Connection* is a comprehensive tool that assists parents, students and counselors in the college admissions process. Some of the features include:

- **College Lookup.** This research tool provides comprehensive information on thousands of colleges. In addition to general information, extensive data are presented on academics, cost, student body characteristics, and other programs.
- **College Search.** Students can produce a list of colleges that meet specific criteria (e.g., size, cost, location, available majors, etc.)
- **Acceptance History.** This feature shows all colleges to which HHS students have been accepted as well as the number of students who have applied.
- **Scattergrams.** A graphical view of application outcomes (e.g., accepted, denied, waitlisted, etc.) at a college for recent HHS applicants, using GPA and SAT scores. Students and families can gauge their chances of acceptance by comparing personal GPA/SAT numbers with those of successful applicants (see pg. 4 for a sample scattergram).



(Above) Scattergram from Naviance. Boston College. squares = accepted students. diamonds = waitlisted. x = denied. Line represents Boston's average accepted Harrison High School student SAT (approx. 1358 out of 1600) and average accepted unweighted GPA (91.9)

- **Visit Schedule.** As college representatives schedule information sessions at HHS, these are posted online.
- **Resources.** This feature provides a useful link to websites relating to college information, financial aid, test preparation, NCAA eligibility, etc.

Students will participate in learning style inventories in order to better understand personal likes and dislikes. This informa-

tion can be useful in helping a student to know what path to take in course selection. It should also help students to form career goals.

We will be hosting Naviance introduction workshops. Stay tuned for announcements on when they are being held.

### SAT and SAT II Testing Dates

Test Date	Test Administered	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline, added fee
January 23, 2010	SAT and SAT II	December 15, 2009	December 30, 2009
March 13, 2010	SAT only	February 4, 2010	February 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT and SAT II	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT and SAT II	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010

### ACT Testing Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline, fee added
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6–March 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8–21, 2010

**Naviance Workshops**

To register call 630-3101

Monday, December 7, 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 8, 9:15am

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 16, 9:15am

[www.harrisoncsd.org/hhs/](http://www.harrisoncsd.org/hhs/)

<http://connection.naviance.com/harrison/>

## AP Scholar Recognition

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college level achievement through AP courses and exams. Although there is no monetary award, in addition to receiving an award certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any AP Score Report that is sent to colleges the following fall.

**AP Scholar:** Grades of **3** or better on **three** or more AP exams.

**AP Scholar with Honor:** Grades of **3** or better on **four** or more AP exams and an average of **3.25** on all AP exams taken.

**AP Scholar with Distinction:** Grades of **3** or better on **five** or more AP exams and an average of **3.5** on all AP exams taken.

**National AP Scholar:** Grades of **4** or better on **eight** or more AP exams and an average of **4** on all AP exams taken.

### National Scholars

Robert Abrams  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Benjamin Purinton

Molly Stevens  
Daniel Zaltz

Michael Rivera  
Makoto Sano  
Margherita Santelia  
Richard Scappaticci  
Genevieve Scarano  
Justin Segal  
Andrea Sperduto  
Annalysa Tassone  
Sasha Tharani  
Gabrielle Vanek  
Pamela Viscome  
Adam Walsh  
Lauren Warshauer  
Sean Yang

### Scholars

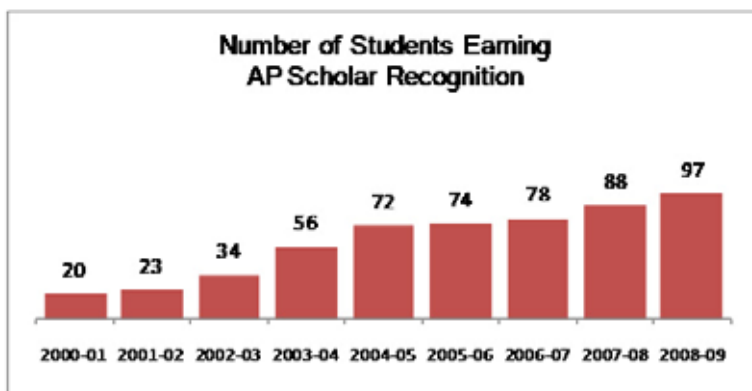
Joelle Abi-Habib  
Uugandari  
Batjargal  
Anthony Battaglia  
Thomas Blake  
Randi Cohen  
David Colangelo  
Alyssa Coppa  
Valentina Cortes  
Dominique Cuce  
Steven DiMilia  
Chris Donato  
Aneri Doshi  
Lucie Dufour  
Geris Duma  
Sara Fadel  
Daniel Fraioli  
Shannon French  
Sam Goldman  
Joseph Goldstein  
Jenna Grippo  
Peter Haviland  
Alexander Jones  
Sarah Kaidanow  
Vincent Kocher  
Helen Lieblich  
Gianna Lopez  
Anne Lysonski  
Christopher  
Malfitano  
Stefanie Manisero  
Katherine  
Markowitz  
Mario Martin-  
Alciati  
Jennifer Martins  
Maureen  
McManus  
Renee Micheli  
John Molloy  
Park Ng  
Caitlin Occhipinti  
Brittany O'Donnell  
Marissa Pagli

### Scholars with Distinction

Robert Abrams  
Jordan Brandes  
Samantha Breslin  
Meghan Broderick  
Paul Buonocore  
Kelly Curtis  
Emma Glass  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Jared Hodes  
Jillian Jacobson  
Matthew Jacobson  
Fabiell Jean-Philippe  
Brady Klein  
Angelo Mariani  
Richard Marino  
Jacqueline Morgen  
Alison Nathanson  
Jenny Parravani  
Saajan Patel  
Jordan Pernin  
Matthew Pon  
Benjamin Purinton  
Nicholas Pyle  
Harry Reibman  
Emily Singer  
Max Winkleman  
Catherine Yotides

### Scholars with Honor

Kathryn Albanese  
Cara Coash  
Amanda Corrado  
David D'Antona  
Zachary Guarnero  
Charles Lichtenauer  
Daniel Lichtenauer  
Carmen Linero  
Margaret Manning  
Victoria Moscato  
Justin Potts  
Edward Saviano



## POLICY CHANGES FOR RANKING AND ACADEMIC HONORS

*For the graduating class of  
2010 & 2011*

**Ranking:** Students will be ranked *only* for the purposes of determining the valedictorian and salutatorian awards. Rank will be based upon the student's weighted GPA from the first six semesters. Students will not receive a rank nor will it be reported unless 1 or 2 in the class.

**Graduation Awards:** Tiered system of academic honors will be fully implemented (see table below). Students ranked 1 and 2 in the class of 2010 and 2011 will receive the valedictorian and salutatorian awards respectively.

**Commencement Speakers:** The valedictorian and salutatorian will speak at graduation.

*For the graduating class of  
2012 and Beyond*

**Ranking:** Discontinue individual ranking as a practice.

**Graduation Awards:** Tiered system of academic honors will be fully implemented (see table below).

**Commencement Speakers:** The Summa Cum Laude students will select their own commencement speakers.

Academic Distinction	Weighted GPA
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	98 or higher
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	95 - 97.99
<i>Cum Laude</i>	93-94.99

	Carolyn Chieco
James A. Ruck, Ed.D.	630.3103
<i>Principal</i>	Maria Chiochio
630.3095	630.3105
Jennifer Laden	Shari Heyen
Larry Mastrota	630.3106
Assistant Principals	Renee Katzenberg
Christopher D. Miller	630.3107
<i>Supervisor of</i>	Kristy Kiernan
<i>Guidance</i>	630.3104
630.3092	Cindy Weng
	630.3348



We spend a good deal of time helping students select and apply to colleges and universities. This is time well spent. In addition, we are working to expand the opportunities we create to help students determine and set goals for career planning. The *Do What You Are* is a self discovery personality type assessment within *Naviance: Family Connection*.

available to students, parents, and counselors immediately after finishing the self discovery assessment. Results include:

- Student personality profile
- Student's evaluation of the profile's accuracy
- Tips for effective career and college searching
- Student strengths and blind-spots
- Recommended careers and college majors

The self discovery assessment offers a tool for counselors to receive insights on how best to advise each student.

Our counselors will use the *Do What You Are* to help their students focus on who they are and what educational path might be of interest. Students complete the self discovery assessment in 30 to 45 minutes and receive useful personality type information as well as individual suggestions for careers and college majors.

The *Do What You Are* is available on-line, and counselors and students can access it from any Web-enabled computer. Results are



**What do you do when financial aid isn't enough?**

Learn creative ways to pay for education.

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00pm  
Harrison High School, HPAC

**Financial Aid Night—December 1 (continued)**

Our guest speaker Joel Peck is a certified public accountant with a high level of expertise in the field. He has guided and assisted parents and students in neighboring schools and has recently led his own children through the process.

It is difficult to understand where to get the money, how to get the money, and how much is actually available.

We will answer the following questions:

- What is FAFSA and when should I get a PIN? Learn how to save \$80.
- What are the sources of financial aid and how do you get money from them?
- How do savings, loans, grants, and work study programs fit into the process?

- Of the money you have available to you, what should you use first?
- Is it better to have money in your name or your child's name?
- Should the children's college money be in their name, a custodial account or a college savings plan?

What do you do when financial aid isn't enough?

What do you do when financial aid says no?

Learn creative ways to pay for education.

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00pm Harrison High School.

Counselors will be on hand and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

**Scholarships**

In an effort to assist students in their journey to college, we compile scholarship application information as we receive it. There are dozens and dozens of scholarships available.

We encourage you to visit our guidance office scholarship file drawer at any time. You can search through the many folders. Our office will gladly copy the requirements and deadline information for you.

You can also find scholarship information included in the Harrison High School daily announcement bulletin (posted on the school website) and on Naviance.

**Please also attend our Financial Aid Night.**