



ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The mission of the Academic Resource Center is to provide the support needed to allow all students to become successful learners in the Serra Community. This support includes helping students become self-advocates and discovering the accommodations that will aid them in their endeavors here at Serra, while developing a “set of tools” to take with them when they go on to college.

Mrs. Gayle Rosenberg, a Board Certified Educational Therapist, is Serra’s full-time Director of the Academic Resource Center. Ms. Stephanie Lee and Mr.

André Monné, both credentialed teachers and full-time ARC associates, also work closely with students in the Resource Center. Serra teachers Randy Vogel (math) and Sandy Brook (English) work part-time with ARC students. In addition to working with students during the school day, Mrs. Rosenberg and her staff aid the faculty in teaching and making accommodations for students who have learning differences.

There is a supplemental program fee for students participating in the ARC. For the 2018-2019 school year, the fee is \$2,000. The fee is effective for new students enrolling in the 2018-19 school year and beyond.

There are several programs in place that help students who have been diagnosed with learning differences.

Extended Time on Tests

Students who have been identified as having learning differences are entitled to extended time on tests. The faculty is provided with an up-to-date list of all students who qualify for this accommodation; however, it is up to the student to ask the teacher for the extended time. Mrs. Rosenberg works with students and teachers to aid in this process. Other suitable accommodations may include oral testing or dictating test answers.



“ I can truly say that the ARC positively impacted my high school experience as a whole and has prepared me for the challenges I face today as a sophomore at USC. I loved working with Mrs. Rosenberg because she was fully invested in my success. With the tools I have acquired from the ARC, I am well prepared to be successful in college and beyond. ”

ANDY BLACK '16

Academic Counseling

Individual counseling is available to any student on a drop-in basis or by appointment. During these sessions, the staff works with the student on study skills, reading strategies, self-advocacy and techniques for extended time test-taking.

Desktop Computers

Desktop computers are available for student use in the Center. Often, students have difficulty completing essay questions on a test using a pen and paper, but can produce excellent work when using a computer. Students may use the computers in the ARC to type in-class writing assignments or responses to essay questions on tests.

Livescribe Pens

Livescribe Pens are available for students to borrow and use for recording lectures in class while taking notes. Students are able to then review their notes while listening to corresponding parts of the lecture and enhance their notes as needed. The Livescribe Desktop allows students to save written notes and corresponding audio as a single PDF file.

Audio Texts - Learning Ally

All ARC students have an individual account with Learning Ally, an online audiobook database with the world's largest collection of human-narrated audio textbooks and novels. Students can search the database for any book they choose, or the ARC can "push" books to their accounts. Books are available in either "classic audio" format (audio only organized by chapter) or "VOICetext" format (audio and text together). The program has free downloadable apps for Android and iOS so that students can access the material on their mobile phones.

Team Meetings

ARC members participate in at least one team meeting each year. At the meeting, which is attended by the student and at least one family member, Mrs. Rosenberg reviews the student's individual learning plan and addresses how the student is incorporating accommodations and study strategies into his studies. By the eleventh grade, the student is able to lead the meeting because he has learned how to advocate for himself.

ARC Study Hall

ARC members are enrolled in an ARC study hall during ninth and tenth grade, which takes the place of their elective period. During this period, academic support is available, as well as time for help with writing assignments, long-term projects and studying for exams. It also is the time students can access accommodations such as extended time on exams.

DVD Lending Library

A DVD Lending Library is available in the Center that consists of films and documentaries that correspond to specific course content. Included are many classic titles that the students read in their English classes and a wide range of history topics. This accommodation allows the students to familiarize themselves with content prior to reading the material, enabling them to have structure and visual cues in place when they begin to read. In no way should the video take the place of reading; rather, it should be used as an aid.

Parallel Text

Shakespearean classics with parallel text are available in the Center for students to assist in understanding some required English readings. With the aid of parallel text, students can read Shakespeare's original plays with a line-by-line paraphrase in contemporary language.

Working with Faculty

The Academic Resource Center assists the Junípero Serra High School faculty by providing them with individual student profiles. These profiles are typically written when a student enters Serra as a ninth grader or transfer student, and are meant to provide teachers with concise, practical information that will help them work more productively with these students. The student profiles are maintained on a secure server.

National Testing Accommodations

Testing Accommodations applications for the SAT and ACT are available in the Center. These applications must be completed and submitted with the regular application to receive extended time on these tests. Mrs. Rosenberg proctors the SAT and the ACT at Serra for students who need special accommodations such as readers.

Transition to College

In order to make the transition from high school to college, students in the Academic Resource Program are encouraged to assemble a portfolio of information that outlines the accommodations that have been made during their high school years. The staff can assist students in providing information that has been developed by other agencies, as well as testing that has been conducted while the student was enrolled at Serra.

The ARC director and the Serra counselors also meet with students to provide information and guidelines about college admissions relative to students with learning differences.

The ARC Team

Gayle Rosenberg, ARC Director
BA Psychology; MA Special Education
K-12 Lifetime Credential
Board Certified Educational Therapist

Stephanie Lee, ARC Associate
BS Education, MA Reading
K-12 Reading Specialist Credential

André Monnéy '03, ARC Associate
BS Business Administration; MA Educational
Leadership and Policy
Secondary Teaching Credential, Math

Randy Vogel, ARC Associate
BA Science and Commerce
Secondary Teaching Credential, Math

Sandy Brook, Directed Studies
BA Communications; MA School Administration
Secondary Teaching Credential, English