

Souderton Area High School

August 2023 Newsletter

SAHS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope your summer is going well. It has been a really good summer at Souderton Area High School. There has been much enthusiasm among staff members as we plan for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

I am very pleased that Red Zone, a time when all teachers are available to students for extra help, etc., prior to First Block every morning, will be part of our schedule for the foreseeable future. We have only scratched the surface on the potential for student engagement during this 40 minutes of time.

We have restructured our Student Services Team, with six of our counselors now serving students from 9th-12th grades. Our hope is that over four years, counselors will have more opportunities to develop relationships with students and parents/guardians. Our seventh counselor, Tom Overberger, has shifted into a role where he will be the primary counselor for all students regarding college admissions, while also serving as the school counselor for 9th-12th gifted students. Finally, we have added a student support advisor, former social studies teacher, Breanne Dickerson, who will devote a significant amount of her time to working with students, especially 9th graders, to help them develop the personal skills needed to be successful in school and beyond. Both Tom and Breanne will be located in what used to be the SAHS Library, which is currently being converted into a Student Center.

We know that promoting students' mental health has become more critical over the past few years. The above changes are intended to allow the SAHS staff to more efficiently bring services to students and families. In addition, much of our staff development for the teachers at SAHS will also be devoted to helping our faculty meet the varying needs of their students.

Last school year may have had more positive events for students and the community occur than any other year during my time as principal at the high school (since January 2004). We do not need to top that this year in that it may be impossible. However, we will work hard to maintain the positive school spirit from last year, as we focus on having the most meaningful relationships possible with our students.

It is going to be a great year!

Sam Varano
Principal

Inside this issue:

Activity Fee	7
Athletics	7
Back to School Night	3
Bell Schedule	4
Bus Passes	4
Calendar	2
Canvassing the Town	3
Food Service	4
Freshman Orientation	3
Graduation 2024	6
Guidance Counselors	5
Hands Across the District	7
Homecoming	6
Marking Period Dates	2
Mentorship Programs	8
Military Opt Out	7
Parent Participation Meetings	2
Post-Secondary Night	5
PSAT	6
Scholars' Banquet	6
Summer Reading	8



Photo Credit: Lifetouch

CALENDAR

AUGUST

- AUG 7: Football Begins
- AUG 14: Fall Sports Meeting - 10:00AM
- AUG 14: Fall Sports Practice Begins
- AUG 14: Band Camp & Choir Camp Begin
- AUG 25 Freshman Orientation - 7:40AM-12:00PM
- AUG 29: Senior Sunrise - 6:00AM-7:30AM
- AUG 29: First Day of School
- AUG 30: Back to School Night - 6:30PM-7:30PM
- AUG 31: Blacklight Dance - 7:00PM-9:00PM

SEPTEMBER

- SEP 1, 4: NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Holiday
- SEP 7: Picture Day
- SEP 20: Post-Secondary Night - 6:00PM
- SEP 28: Movie Night - 7:00PM
- SEP 25: NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur
- SEP 27: Parent Participation Meeting - 9:30AM

OCTOBER

- OCT 7: SAT - 7:00AM
- OCT 9: NO SCHOOL - Act 80 Day
- OCT 11: PSAT
- OCT 16-21: Spirit Week
- OCT 19: Fall Choral Concert - 7:00PM
- OCT 20: Homecoming Pep Rally
- OCT 20: Homecoming Game Tailgate - 5:00PM
- OCT 21: Homecoming Dance - 6:30PM-9:30PM
- OCT 23-27: Career Week
- OCT 24: NHS Induction - 6:30PM
- OCT 25: Parent Participation Meeting - 9:30AM

NOVEMBER

- NOV 1: Picture Re-Takes
- NOV 2: End of Marking Period 1
- NOV 2-4: Fall Play - 7:00PM
- NOV 4: Veteran's Lunch - 11:00AM
- NOV 7: NO SCHOOL - Election Day/ACT 80 Day
- NOV 13: Report Cards Available on HAC
- NOV 11: ACADEC Competition - 10:00AM-5:00PM
- NOV 14: Red Cross Blood Drive - 7:45AM-2:45PM
- NOV 15: Orchestra Concert - 6:30PM
- NOV 17: Winter Sports Meeting - 3:00PM
- NOV 20: NO SCHOOL - Senior Project Presentations
- NOV 21: NO SCHOOL - Conferences -
1:30PM - 8:30PM
- NOV 22: NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service
- NOV 23, 24: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday
- NOV 29: Parent Participation Meeting - 9:30AM



Parent Participation Meetings

Parent Participation Meetings are opportunities for parents to learn about school programs, events, and issues through presentations and discussions with school staff, usually the principal. All parents are invited to attend.

- Wednesday, September 27, 2023
- Wednesday, October 25, 2023
- Wednesday, November 29, 2023
- Thursday, January 25, 2024
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024
- Tuesday, March 26, 2024
- Wednesday, April 24, 2024

All meetings are at 9:30AM in Room A101.

2023-2024 End of Marking Period Dates

Parents/Guardians can continuously monitor student progress on Home Access Center (HAC)
(Dates are subject to change.)

	End of Marking Period	Report Cards Available on HAC
MP1	11/2/23	11/13/23
MP2	1/22/24	2/2/24
MP3	4/3/24	4/15/24
MP4	6/7/24	6/12/24

Welcome Class of 2027!

Freshman Orientation

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2027 to Souderton Area High School! All freshmen should come to the high school on **Friday, August 25th**, for orientation.

The day will begin at 7:40AM and end at 12:00PM. The **regular bus run will pick students up** at their designated bus stop and drop them off there at the end of the day.

This will be a half-day of fun and an opportunity for freshmen to get to know the school and their classmates. This day is a student day! We hope to see all of our freshmen at orientation, for which the Link Crew has been working diligently to prepare.

Back to School Night

The First Semester Back to School Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 30th** 6:30PM - 7:30PM. Parents will follow their student's **FIRST SEMESTER** schedule.

Please bring a copy of your student's schedule.

Plan to arrive early (pulling into the school by 5:45PM is recommended), and use both the Lower Road and Halteman Road Entrances. We will begin promptly at 6:30PM.



Canvassing the Town!

Parents of Souderton Area High School freshmen may find a surprise guest at their door one evening this summer when high school administrators, teachers, and members of the Link Crew make "house calls" at the homes of incoming freshmen. The brief visits will take place from 5:00PM-7:00PM, when the visitors will offer welcoming messages and information to parents and students in the freshman class. Our goal is to send the message to incoming 9th graders that the high school is excited to help them. We know that the transition between schools for students is always challenging in different ways.

The welcome team hopes to visit more than 100 homes during the evenings of **August 1st** and **August 17th**. If a family is not home at the time of the visit, information about the high school will be left at the residence.



RED ZONE

is here to stay - starting the second week of school!

5th BLOCK will now be on **MONDAYS!**



2023-2024 Bell Schedule

<u>STANDARD DAY</u>	<u>MONDAY 5th BLOCK</u>
RED ZONE 7:25AM - 8:05AM	RED ZONE 7:25AM - 8:05AM
1st BLOCK 8:12AM - 9:36AM (Attendance taken at 8:12AM)	1st BLOCK 8:12AM - 9:28AM (Attendance taken at 8:12AM)
2nd BLOCK 9:43AM - 11:09AM	2nd BLOCK 9:35AM - 10:52AM
3rd BLOCK 11:16AM - 1:14PM	5th BLOCK 10:59AM - 11:19AM
*A LUNCH 11:16AM - 11:46AM (Class 11:50AM - 1:14PM)	3rd BLOCK 11:26AM - 1:21PM
*B LUNCH 12:00PM - 12:30PM (Class 11:16AM - 11:57AM & 12:33PM - 1:14PM)	*A LUNCH 11:26AM - 11:56AM (Class 12:01PM - 1:21PM)
*C LUNCH 12:44PM - 1:14PM (Class 11:16AM - 12:40PM)	*B LUNCH 12:05PM - 12:35PM (Class 11:26AM - 12:02PM & 12:38PM - 1:21PM)
4th BLOCK 1:21PM - 2:45PM	*C LUNCH 12:51PM - 1:21PM (Class 11:26AM - 12:46PM)
	4th BLOCK 1:28PM - 2:45PM

You Have...	If your 3rd Block is:
A Lunch	English, Science, Support Room, Carbone, Elrod, Musselman, Studt, PM NMTCC
B Lunch	Math, Social Studies, Business, World Language, Ozeni, Stauffer
C Lunch	Wellness, Study Hall, Tech Ed, Art, FCS, Music, Detwiler, Houser

Bus Passes

If a student needs to take a bus other than the one to which he/she is assigned, an email sent to attendsahs@soudertonsd.org is required from a parent/guardian. We do not accept permission over the phone.

Food Service

Breakfast (All Schools) \$1.75

High School Lunch \$3.60

Families, regardless of income, are encouraged to complete and submit a short, confidential Free and Reduced Meal Application. This application needs to be completed each school year. Please visit the [Free and Reduced Price Meals section](#) of the Food Services web site to access the online or paper application for the 2023-2024 school year.

Post-Secondary Night



SAHS will be holding a Post-Secondary Night on **Wednesday, September 20th, from 6:00PM-8:00PM**. This evening is open to all juniors, seniors, and their parents/guardians. Among the presentations planned will be one on the college admission process that will address the use of Naviance and electronic submission of college materials. Seniors will be **required to request transcripts and teacher recommendations through Naviance**. Unless specifically requested by a college for a specific reason, transcripts will not be sent until after the start of school.

More information regarding Post-Secondary Night coming soon!

Guidance Counselors 2023-2024

Students With Last Names	Counselor	Counselor Email
A-Cr	Alison Kircher	akircher@soudertonsd.org
Cu-Hag	Bryan McKeever	bmckeeper@soudertonsd.org
Hah-Le	Nickole Trout	ntROUT@soudertonsd.org
Li-O	Kate Hardgrove	khardgrove@soudertonsd.org
P-SI	Tim Brown	tjbrown@soudertonsd.org
Sm-Z	Dan Glatts	dglatts@soudertonsd.org
GIEP A-Z College Counselor	Tom Overberger	toverberger@soudertonsd.org

If students would like to meet with their counselor, they may:

- *Email their counselor to schedule an appointment, or
- *Stop by the Guidance Office in between classes or during lunch to schedule an appointment

For immediate concerns, students may request a pass to Guidance from their classroom teacher.

Homecoming 2023



Photo Credit: Lifetouch

SAHS Homecoming begins with Spirit Week, **October 16th through the 21st**, with daily themes to be announced. The week ends with a Pep Rally, Tailgate, and Homecoming football game against Upper Dublin at 7:00PM.

Don't miss the Homecoming Dance on **Saturday, October 21st**, at the high school. Tickets will be on sale during Spirit Week.



Photo Credit: Lifetouch



Photo Credit: Lifetouch

PSAT

The PSAT will be administered to all **11th grade students free of charge on Wednesday, October 11th**. Any 10th grade student can also take the PSAT on October 11th, in school; however, **10th graders would need to pay a fee. Cost and online registration information will be available by mid-September**. We are pleased that we are able to provide 11th grade students with a free opportunity to learn more about Advanced Placement and their college readiness, as well as potentially becoming candidates for National Merit Scholarships.

Scholars' Banquet

Following are the qualification criteria for the Scholars' Banquet 2024:

10th Grade Students = Distinguished Honor Roll (straight A's) for each of the first three marking periods of the year

11th and 12th Grade Students = Top 5% of their class

Reminder: Class rank is not publicly reported.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined based upon applications from students in the top 5% of their class.

Class of 2024 Graduation

The date of the Graduation Ceremony will be announced after the inclement weather season.

Activity Fee

An activity fee of **\$175.00** will be paid by all middle and high school students if they choose to participate in any co-curricular activity, either athletic or non-athletic. The fee is paid one time per year even if a student participates in multiple activities.

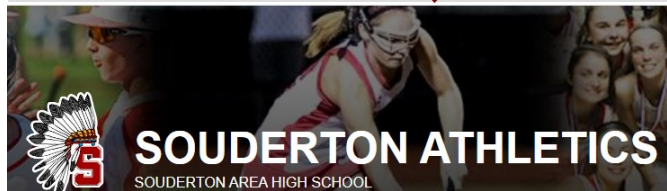
The activity fee will be collected for participation in all co-curricular activities excluding, but not limited to, the following: service clubs, student empowerment groups (Student Government and Student Council), and accredited courses.

Provisions will be made for exemption from paying either a part or all of the fee by students whose economic situation would otherwise preclude their involvement. Students who would qualify for free or reduced price lunches under the guidelines established for the federally funded lunch programs will not be required to pay the student activity fee.

Athletics

For changes and cancellations, check the Souderton Area High School Athletics website. We are all looking forward to a great year for SAHS athletics!

Click Link Below



Hands Across the District

The high school's Hands Across the District coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year will be Jane Hagan. Those interested in joining our Hands Across the District volunteers should complete the volunteer application found on the district website.

CLICK HERE

Military Opt-Out

The No Child Left Behind Act includes a provision mandating the release of student information (names, addresses, and telephone numbers) to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon their request. Additionally, the district must also notify parents/guardians of their right and the right of their child to request that the district not release such information without prior written consent.

If you do not want the school to release the above information to military recruiters and/or institutions of higher learning, please download, complete, and print the Opt-Out form using the link below. Return the form by **September 30th**, to Mrs. Robin Johnson at rjohnson@soudertonsd.org, or mail to Mrs. Johnson's attention at the high school.

[Military Recruitment Opt-Out Form](#)

178 Students Complete Summer Mentorship Programs

SAHS pathway coordinators and mentorship coordinator, Amy Tarlo, worked really hard to offer SAHS students 13 in-house mentorship opportunities from June 14th through June 16th. 178 Souderton students took advantage of the opportunities to work with professionals in their related career fields to learn about various job opportunities, skills, applications, job perspectives, and personal career journeys. There were guest speakers and projects in each program. All of the programs offered a field trip and a post-secondary campus visit related to the majors within the program.

Please see the list of programs in which students participated below. We are pleased to give our students a jump start on thinking about their futures, without pressuring them to make premature decisions.

- Bio/Medical
- Business: Accounting/Management
- Business: Marketing/Communications
- Engineering
- Exercise Science
- Fashion
- Filmmaking
- Graphics and Fine Arts
- Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice
- Nursing
- Social Sciences/Mental Health
- Sports Information, Business, and Marketing
- World Language



2023-2024 Souderton Area High School Summer/Pre-Course Reading List

Honors and AP students can expect an assessment on their summer reading early in the semester. This assessment will count as not more than 15% of the First Marking Period grade.

Click here for the [Summer Reading List](#).

Alternative book choices must fall within the literature focus of the student's scheduled course. Prior approval must be obtained for an alternative book. To request approval for an alternative text, please fill out the [Alternative Book Approval Form](#) and email it to Dr. Aronow at saronow@soudertonsd.org.

