



**SOUDERTON AREA
HIGH SCHOOL**
CEEB Code 394635

COUNSELORS - (all grades)

Mrs. Kircher (A-Cr)
akircher@soudertonsd.org

Mr. McKeever (Cu-Hag)
bmckeever@soudertonsd.org

Mrs. Trout (Hah-Le)
ntrout@soudertonsd.org

Mrs. Hardgrove (Li-O)
khardgrove@soudertonsd.org

Mr. Brown (P-SI)
tjbrown@soudertonsd.org

Mr. Glatts (Sm-Z)
dglatts@soudertonsd.org

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Mr. Overberger (GIEP A-Z)
toverberger@soudertonsd.org



11th Grade

SAHS Guidance Newsletter

August 2023

WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 2025!

Junior year is sure to be exciting, memorable, and well, busy. It will be a year of discovery where you will learn many things about yourself, your strengths, weaknesses, and your future goals. As juniors, students are often stretched thin with increased class rigor, clubs, sports, work, friends, driving, mentorships, and for some, the start of the college admission process. All of this can be quite overwhelming.

To best support our students, an important change has been made within the guidance department. As you will see, counselors will be serving all students grades 9-12 within their section of the alphabet. The only exception being, Mr. Overberger will now focus on guiding students through the college search and admission process while being the guidance counselor for all students A-Z with a GIEP. Having a specialized college counselor should help students stay on top of the college admission process making it more manageable and organized. To stay on track, a junior timeline appears later in this newsletter providing benchmarks for each month.

Juniors should have completed or planned their job shadow and be looking into mentorships. Mr. Darcy mdarcy@soudertonsd.org can help with job shadows and Mrs. Tarlo atarlo@soudertonsd.org can assist with mentorships.

As you prepare for the new school year and enjoy the last few moments of summer, there are a few important dates to keep in mind:

**FIRST DAY OF
SCHOOL**
8/29

**BACK TO
SCHOOL NIGHT**
For Parents!
8/30
6:30PM-7:30PM

**BLACK LIGHT
DANCE**
8/31
7:00PM-9:00PM

Who is my counselor?

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
Administrative Assistant	Robin Johnson	rjohnson@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Dawn Kester	dkester@soudertonsd.org



Mrs. Kircher



Mr. McKeever



Mrs. Trout



Mrs. Hardgrove

Guidance

Guidance is located on the first floor of the building across from the cafeteria. Students can meet with their counselor by emailing and requesting an appointment. For urgent matters, students may stop by guidance and request to speak to their counselor. During class time, students must present a pass from their classroom teacher.



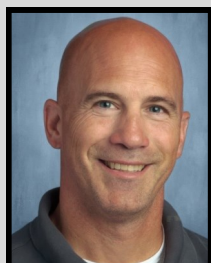
Mr. Overberger



Mr. Brown



Mr. Glatts



Mr. Haines



Dr. Coddington

11/12 Student Services

The 11/12 Student Services office is located on the Halteman Road side of the building, **SECOND FLOOR**. This office houses our 11th grade principal, Mr. Haines, and our 12th grade principal, Dr. Coddington. Among other things, this office leads Link Crew, manages school clubs, and handles student parking.

11th Grade Principal	Matt Haines	mhaines@soudertonsd.org
12th Grade Principal	Bill Coddington	wcoddington@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Kelli Nonemacher	knonemacher@soudertonsd.org

FALL POST-SECONDARY NIGHT

Wednesday, September 20th, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Each fall, SAHS hosts a Post-Secondary Night. It is an evening that provides students and parents/guardians the opportunity to explore options for life after high school. Our guidance staff hosts presentations regarding the college application process, financial aid, steps/considerations in joining the workforce, and military options. Our concourse is lined with two and four year colleges as well as trade schools and certification programs ready to answer your questions. This is a great way for students to gather information and get off on the right foot with post-secondary plans.



SAT PREP PROGRAM

The Indian Valley Education Foundation (IVEF) is pleased to provide an SAT Prep program for SASD students taught by SAHS teachers. Classes will be held at the high school, Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning August 22nd. This course is designed to prepare students for the **October 7, 2023** SAT Exam.

REGISTER NOW



Indian Valley
**EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**
Progress | Opportunity | Advancement

Please Note: **SPACE IS LIMITED TO 25 STUDENTS**, first come, first serve basis.

Students **MUST** register themselves for the SAT exam through the [College Board website](#).

TECHNOLOGY

Students will receive their laptops during the first few days of school in 5th block. For computer support, our Tech HUB is available to assist students during school hours and is located in the Student Center on the right hand side. Students can also fill out a [Help Desk Ticket Form](#) and a technician will get in touch with the student to resolve the issue.

Additional information can be found on the school website [HERE](#).

TECH HUB CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- *COMPUTER PICK-UP/RETURN
- *HARDWARE ISSUES
- *COMPUTER LOGIN
- *GOOGLE (PATHWAY MANAGER, SCHOLOGY)

FOR HELP WITH:

- *NAVIANCE - GO TO GUIDANCE
- *HOME ACCESS - GO TO GUIDANCE
OR STUDENT SERVICES

from the

CAREER COUNSELORS



Please remember to check your pathwayMANAGER account. Double-check that your email and phone number are updated and correct. We use the pathwayManager system to send out important messages regarding opportunities and special programs. Always check your Message Board!!

- Complete a job shadow if you still have not done one. Job shadow applications are in Guidance or can be accessed in pathwayMANAGER in the Mentorship tab. Upon completion of the job shadow, be sure to complete a reflection in pathwayMANAGER.
 - ⇒ Field trips will be advertised throughout the school year and some will count as a job shadow. See Mr. Darcy if it is not clear. Reminder: You are permitted an excused absence to do a job shadow during the school day.
- Focus on **completing a 20-hour mentorship**
- Upload a grade-level reflection for each course you take
 - ⇒ All juniors need a total of 8 reflections to meet state requirements to graduate.
- Complete a Mentorship and submit **all paperwork by October 15th of your Senior Year. Do not wait until your senior year to complete a mentorship! Do it now or over the summer. Please set up an appointment with Mrs. Tarlo if you need help atarlo@soudertonsd.org or stop in A112**
- How to complete a mentorship: (All directions are located under the career experience tab - Mentorship Info)
 - ⇒ Propose it through pathwayMANAGER
 - ⇒ Once approved, submit your mentorship reflection
 - ⇒ Turn completed/signed contract to Mrs. Tarlo in A112
- Attend the career speakers during career week, October 24th! Information about how to sign up will be coming in early October.



Mr. Darcy
Career Counselor



Students can schedule an appointment with Mr. Darcy by emailing mdarcy@soudertonsd.org OR Mrs. Tarlo by emailing atarlo@soudertonsd.org



Mrs. Tarlo
Mentorship/Transition
Coordinator

COLLEGE CORNER

COLLEGE VISITS

College websites are great sources of information but don't forget about Naviance. There you will find a wealth of information to help you narrow down your search. You can even sign up to visit with college admission counselors coming to Souderton through Naviance! Keep in mind, the counselors you meet are the same ones reading your application and deciding on your admission. Don't miss these opportunities.



PLANNING A VISIT?

As per SASD Attendance Policy:

"Students in the 11th and 12th grades may be excused for three COLLEGE VISITATIONS provided that they present the Attendance Office with a note from their parent/guardian requesting permission for the visit.

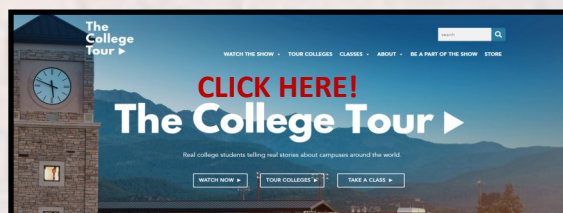


This request must be on file prior to the visit and must indicate the name of the post-secondary school they are visiting. If the above procedure is not followed, the absence will be unexcused unless the student provides verification from the school visited, including time and date of their presence."

Notes can be turned into the attendance office or emailed to attend-SAHS@soudertonsd.org.

NOT ABLE TO VISIT?

CHECK-OUT 



PSAT / SAT / ACT

PSAT - The PSAT is given to all juniors in mid-October. Results will be available in December and are typically distributed to students during 5th block. The PSAT helps familiarize students with the types of test questions they will face on the SAT and ACT. PSAT test results are also used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships. Students can use their PSAT test results to help guide their test prep for the SAT and ACT. All 11th grade students are automatically registered for the PSAT by SAHS.

SAT - The SAT is a standardized test used by colleges to help make admission decisions. The content areas covered by the SAT are math and evidence based reading and writing. Most students take the SAT in the spring of their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year. There is no limit to the number of times you can take the test but it is recommended students take it no more than 3 times. Registration for the SAT is through College Board at <https://www.collegeboard.org/>. At the time of the exam, students will have the opportunity to send their scores, free of charge, to 4 schools. After this, there is a fee to forward scores. When colleges consider scores they will consider your single highest score **or** allow for superscoring, taking the highest result for each section of the test regardless of test date. Check the college website to see which method is used. The SAT is based on a 1600 point scale. The national average for 2022 graduates was 1050.

ACT - The ACT is another standardized test, much like the SAT, that colleges use to make admission decisions. There are a few differences between the two tests and students should take the test that best suits them. Your guidance counselor can help you make this decision. The content areas covered by the ACT are English, math, reading, and science. ACT scoring is on a 1-36 scale. An above average score is 21 or higher. For elite schools, a score of 30+ is required. Students should register for the ACT at www.act.org. As with the SAT, students can request their ACT scores be sent to four schools or scholarship agencies at the time of the test for free. After that, there is a fee.

HOW TO PREPARE

During the spring, the [Indian Valley Education Foundation](#) offers a 7-week SAT Prep Class for students in their junior year at SAHS. This class will be taught by SAHS teachers and will be held at the high school. The purpose of this program is to provide students who are seeking to pursue post-secondary education an affordable resource to prepare for the SATs.

Students may also find [Khan Academy](#) a valuable resource. Khan Academy is an effective, personalized, and **FREE** online program many of our students utilize.



TOP TIPS

- ⇒ Take Algebra II before taking the SAT
- ⇒ Students applying to rolling admissions schools may want to take the SAT/ACT twice during the spring of their junior year. With rolling admissions you will want to submit your application early senior year, before the October SAT. This will also provide a strong foundation if you choose to take the SAT again in your senior year in hopes of improving your score.
- ⇒ Students applying to highly selective schools, may need to take the SAT Subject tests. Make sure they are needed and know which ones to take before scheduling.

NAVIANCE

Most students had a brief introduction to Naviance in their 9th grade Career class. A web-based college program, Naviance offers a **thorough career and college search**. It offers countless career information and links to every college in the US and beyond. The goal of our high school guidance department is to utilize this comprehensive program to centralize the college search process and provide information or links to all college related questions.

Naviance will afford college bound students the opportunity to **organize and conduct a detailed college search**, view college maps, take virtual tours to certain schools, obtain scholarship opportunities, and see how they (the student) **compares to past SAHS graduates** and their college acceptance rates through data gathered from past graduates. Students will also be able to view a list of all college representatives that will individually be visiting SAHS and can register to meet with these individuals through the site. We **STRONGLY** encourage students to take advantage of these visits beginning junior year as they will be meeting with the admission counselor who will be making the admission decision on their application.

Through Naviance, students are also able to take interest inventories, explore and research careers and college majors. All of these tools will help the student make an educated decision.

The site will provide links for students to register for SAT/ACT testing and the NCAA eligibility center along with numerous other college based resources.

Further, **all high school transcript requests and teacher and/or counselor recommendations must be placed through Naviance**. Electronic submission of academic documents makes for a more organized, more effective, and more efficient process. Please note that there are a few schools that still require mailed documents. In this situation only, we will provide all documents to the student to be mailed from home. As a result of the electronic submission, students will be able to track their applications through the site, verifying that materials were requested and sent.

Throughout the year, guidance is available to help students navigate the program that can be accessed from any computer (there is even a phone app!).

Take advantage of the many different opportunities NAVIANCE has to offer to make the most informed college decision.

Naviance will centralize and simplify a process that can be overwhelming and stressful.

JUNIOR YEAR - *College Planning Time Line*

September/October

- Communicate with parents about college/career plans and potential costs
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities and pursue leadership roles
- Attend Post-Secondary Night at SAHS - September 20th, 6:00PM-8:00PM
- Take the PSAT - National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
- Navigate Naviance

April/May

- Take SAT/ACT tests, if needed
- Continue to utilize Naviance to modify college list
- Request information from colleges on your list
- Attend evening Spring College Fair at SAHS (Date TBD)
- Communicate with admission officers
- Communicate with your parents about your career interests and college search progress
- AP exams for students taking these courses
- Draft summer plans, especially internship/educational experiences

November/December

- Improve/maintain grades
- Use your PSAT results to access the College Board's Quick start (December)
- Become aware SAT/ACT registration and testing dates in the spring
- Continue to utilize Naviance to explore careers and develop a college list

June

- Take SAT/ACT tests, if needed
- Narrow "smart" college list for summer visits
- Ask 2 teachers for college recommendation letters (only if you will definitely be applying to a college requesting a teacher rec)
- Review schedule to ensure rigorous senior year courses.

NO CHANGES AFTER THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

January/February/March

- Register for spring SAT/ACT test dates
- Continue to utilize Naviance to explore careers
- Expand college search making sure your list is balanced with Reach, Target, and Safety schools
- Communicate with your parents about your college search progress
- Course registration for next year - prepare a challenging senior year course schedule with advice from teachers/counselor (maintain or increase rigor)
- Visit colleges and open house programs

July/August

- Visit colleges
- Communicate with admission counselors
- Narrow college choices to 5-8 schools
- Athletes – register with NCAA
- Update resume (helps teachers in writing recommendation letters)
- Begin writing "rough" draft for application essays, if needed
- Register for September ACT or October SAT