



**SOUDERTON AREA  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
CEEB Code 394635

**COUNSELORS - (all grades)**

Mrs. Kircher (A-Cr)  
[akircher@soudertonsd.org](mailto:akircher@soudertonsd.org)

Mr. McKeever (Cu-Hag)  
[bmckeever@soudertonsd.org](mailto:bmckeever@soudertonsd.org)

Mrs. Trout (Hah-Le)  
[ntrout@soudertonsd.org](mailto:ntrout@soudertonsd.org)

Mrs. Hardgrove (Li-O)  
[khargrove@soudertonsd.org](mailto:khargrove@soudertonsd.org)

Mr. Brown (P-SI)  
[tjbrown@soudertonsd.org](mailto:tjbrown@soudertonsd.org)

Mr. Glatts (Sm-Z)  
[dglatts@soudertonsd.org](mailto:dglatts@soudertonsd.org)

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**COLLEGE COUNSELOR**

Mr. Overberger (GIEP A-Z)  
[toverberger@soudertonsd.org](mailto:toverberger@soudertonsd.org)



# 12th Grade

## SAHS Guidance Newsletter

August 2023

WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 2024!

Your Senior year has finally arrived . . . . . and before you know it, graduation will be right around the corner! This will be a busy year with many anticipated events and perhaps some stressful moments. To help students, Mr. Darcy, our career counselor, will be available to all seniors who may be preparing for trade school or planning to enter directly into the workforce after graduation. Mr. Overberger will now be the college counselor and will focus on guiding students through the college search and admission process. He will also be the guidance counselor for all students, A-Z with a GIEP. Students wishing to meet with Mr. Darcy [mdarcy@soudertonsd.org](mailto:mdarcy@soudertonsd.org) or Mr. Overberger [toverberger@soudertonsd.org](mailto:toverberger@soudertonsd.org) should email them directly to set up an appointment. 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 senior timeline appears later in this newsletter providing benchmarks for each month.

This is sure to be a memorable year. Be sure to take it one step at a time, and enjoy everything as it comes. Your teachers and guidance counselors are here to support you.

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	<a href="mailto:akircher@soudertonsd.org">akircher@soudertonsd.org</a>
Cu-Hag	Bryan McKeever	<a href="mailto:bmckeeper@soudertonsd.org">bmckeeper@soudertonsd.org</a>
Hah-Le	Nickole Trout	<a href="mailto:ntroust@soudertonsd.org">ntroust@soudertonsd.org</a>
Li-O	Kate Hardgrove	<a href="mailto:khardgrove@soudertonsd.org">khardgrove@soudertonsd.org</a>
P-SI	Tim Brown	<a href="mailto:tjbrown@soudertonsd.org">tjbrown@soudertonsd.org</a>
Sm-Z	Dan Glatts	<a href="mailto:dglatts@soudertonsd.org">dglatts@soudertonsd.org</a>
GIEP A-Z College Counselor	Tom Overberger	<a href="mailto:toverberger@soudertonsd.org">toverberger@soudertonsd.org</a>
Administrative Assistant	Robin Johnson	<a href="mailto:rjohnson@soudertonsd.org">rjohnson@soudertonsd.org</a>
Administrative Assistant	Dawn Kester	<a href="mailto:dkester@soudertonsd.org">dkester@soudertonsd.org</a>



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.



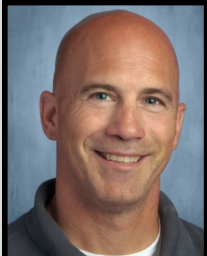
Mr. Overberger



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.

<b>11th Grade Principal</b>	Matt Haines	<a href="mailto:mhaines@soudertonsd.org">mhaines@soudertonsd.org</a>
<b>12th Grade Principal</b>	Bill Coddington	<a href="mailto:wcoddington@soudertonsd.org">wcoddington@soudertonsd.org</a>
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Kelli Nonemacher	<a href="mailto:knonemacher@soudertonsd.org">knonemacher@soudertonsd.org</a>

## 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. We hope to see you there!



## THE REPS ARE COMING, THE REPS ARE COMING

In the fall, college admission counselors visit SAHS to meet with students during the day in our guidance department. Meeting with an admission counselor can help students gain insight into a particular school and their admission process. It allows students to have questions answered and make an all important



first impression. Keep in mind, the admission counselors you meet are the same ones reading your application and deciding on your admission. Some schools also choose to hold an Instant Decision Day (IDD) at Souderton. Meaning, they will review your application with you and render a decision on the spot. Last year, 100% of our students who applied instant decision were accepted! Be sure to keep checking [Naviance](#) to sign up for college admission counselor visits and Instant Decision Days. Questions? Talk to [Mr. Overberger](#), but don't miss these opportunities.



When sending a staff member an email, be aware it will always end in **.org**. Only student emails end in **.us**.



## SAT / ACT

**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. SAHS does not maintain student scores. Scores are held by College Board and forwarded directly to the educational institution. 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 difference 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](http://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.

**Test Optional** - If a school is “Test Optional” it means the school does not require scores from the SAT or ACT. These schools focus on the applicant’s high school academic performance as criteria for admission. Many colleges/universities have chosen to go Test Optional. For more information, consult the individual college website or [click here](#).



## 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



- Focus on **Senior Presentations**
  - Review the Senior Project Rubric in pathwayMANAGER
  - **Register for ONE** of two dates - **November 7th or November 20th**
  - **Register online - Ambassadors will be around during 5th block to help**
  - **Students who don't sign up, don't get a date**
  - **NO date = NO graduate**
- View the sample videos listed on the SAHS [website](#)
- Upload the **"Culminating Reflection"**
  - This reflection is for students to reflect on themselves as a whole. It is your opportunity to look back at your earlier reflections and experiences and refine what you want to say about them.
  - **Bring your resume to the senior Project Presentation**
- Complete a Mentorship and submit **all paperwork by October 15th**
  - Paperwork:
    - Proposal
    - Turn in Contract to Mrs. Tarlo in A112
    - Submit Mentorship Reflection



Mr. Darcy  
Career Counselor

**SENIORS** - If you have yet to complete your job shadow or mentorship **AND NEED HELP**, please reach out to Mr. Darcy (Job Shadow) in Guidance or Mrs. Tarlo (Mentorship) in A112 **IMMEDIATELY**.

Students can schedule an appointment with Mr. Darcy by emailing [mdarcy@soudertonsd.org](mailto:mdarcy@soudertonsd.org) OR Mrs. Tarlo by emailing [atarlo@soudertonsd.org](mailto:atarlo@soudertonsd.org)



Mrs. Tarlo  
Mentorship/Transition  
Coordinator

# COLLEGE CORNER

## READY, SET, APPLY . . .

Ways to Apply:

1. Individual College Website
2. [Common Application](#)
3. [Coalition Application](#)
4. [PA State University Application](#)

*Confused? Unsure? Email [Mr. Overberger!](#)*

## THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

### Types of Admissions

**Open Admission** - Any student who applies and meets the requirements will be admitted. This is the case with community colleges and many public universities.

**Rolling Admission** - Applications are reviewed and accepted/rejected as they are received. Because of this, those who apply later may have less of a chance of getting in, even if they have the credentials. Think, early bird gets the worm!

**Apply to these schools ASAP!**

**Regular Admission** - The most common type of admission. Applications are due on a set date, the pool of applications are compared and the decision to admit or deny is communicated.

**Be aware of how your schools admit and calendar important dates!**

### How Can You Apply?

**Regular Decision** - The most common type of decision. Applications are due on a set date and students are informed of the schools decision on a set date in the spring.

**Early Action** - Students submit their application by an earlier deadline (usually late October/early November) and in turn receive a decision early. Students may apply to multiple colleges Early Action with no binding commitment.

**Early Decision** - Students submit their application by an earlier deadline (usually late October/early November) and in turn receive a decision early. **HOWEVER**, applying Early Decision is **BINDING** which means the student agrees to attend if accepted and the financial aid package meets their needs. Students may only apply to **ONE** school Early Decision. Please consider carefully as there could be penalties for breaking this agreement.

**Add Colleges, Request Transcripts, and Request Teacher Recommendations via Naviance.**

# COLLEGE CORNER

## FAFSA / FINANCIAL AID

*“Before each year of college, apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)** form. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own aid. “ So even if you do not think you will qualify for any financial aid , you should still complete for potential money from specific colleges.*

### 2024-2025 FAFSA Release

“Due to the major changes, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid has indicated they will be ready to offer the simplified application for the upcoming cycle. They are delaying the release until December 2023, two months after the usual October 1 release. In other words, the 2024-25 FAFSA will be delayed.”

For additional FAFSA information [CLICK HERE!](#)

A helpful website that offers straightforward and easy to understand information about planning and paying for college is [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) . The site offers useful content and interactive tools.

[FAFSA Presentation](#)

[FAFS Tips & Tricks](#)

[FAFSA Worksheet](#)

### Other informative websites regarding financial aid:

[www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)

[www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com)

[www.collegeboard.com/students](http://www.collegeboard.com/students) (click ‘BigFuture’ then ‘Pay for College’ link)

[www.mysmartborrowing.org](http://www.mysmartborrowing.org)

[www.collegeboard.com/parents](http://www.collegeboard.com/parents) (‘pay for college’ link)

## SENIOR YEAR

## MYTHS

**MYTH** - Senior year grades don't matter. Junior year was the most important.

Truth is all years of high school are important. Typically, the more competitive the college or program, the more likely a college is to ask for senior year grades. Also, colleges will look to see if your grades improved or declined over 4 years.

**MYTH** - Since I doubled up in a core subject in a previous grade, I don't need to take that subject during my senior year.

As stated above, colleges will look to see if you are challenging yourself during senior year. Also, colleges want to see at least 1 credit of English each year due to the importance of reading and writing skills and college success. Further, taking your senior year off in a course like math can make it difficult when taking your first math class in college due to the long time in between math courses.

**MYTH** - Even though I didn't put forth much effort my senior year, I will try harder in college because that matters more.

Students that challenge themselves their senior year and are successful do better their first semester in college. This is because they have developed better study/school habits to do well in difficult classes.

**MYTH** - I don't have the grades to get into college.

There is a path for everybody. Find the one that is a "fit" for you both academically and personally, one that will support your success. Your interests may lead you to college, technical program, certification or some other type of learning. Regardless of your future career, you will always need to problem solve and learn so develop those skills now.

## APLIKATION MISTAEKS

1. Plan ahead to ensure all materials are received by the deadline. Take your time and fill out applications in their entirety. Calendar deadlines.
2. Use a professional email. If necessary, create a new one. Do not use your Souderton email as once you graduate, you will lose it.
3. Have a professional, appropriate voice mail on your phone.
4. PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD! Don't submit an application with spelling or grammar errors. Double check all personal information as this can delay your application and negatively impact the process.
5. Answer ALL questions, even optional questions.
6. Take supplemental information seriously. These answers can often make a student stand out and give the admission counselor the chance to get to know you better and show them you did your research and have a serious interest in their school.
7. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. Request needed recommendations from teachers and counselors WAY ahead of time! Teachers/counselors may not be able to honor late requests.
8. Stay focused—senior year grades matter! Colleges may ask for mid-year grades. The school you will be attending will need your final transcript to see that you kept your grades up.



## SENIOR YEAR - *College Planning Time Line*

### August/September

- Meet with counselor to discuss college applications
- Update resume and complete application essays if needed
- Continually communicate with your parents about college/career plans as well as cost
- Register for ACT/SAT if necessary
- Attend college visits and open houses, meet with college admission reps
- Attend college visits/Instant Decision Days held in guidance, register on Naviance
- Attend Post-Secondary Night at SAHS - September 20th, 6:00PM-8:00PM
- Finalize college choices with parents
- Request teacher and/or counselor recommendations through Naviance if needed (must complete student profile in Naviance)
- Decide on early decision/action strategy, calendar all deadlines and be attentive to those dates

*It is highly recommended you apply to colleges with a specific deadline no later than 1 month before deadline to ensure all material are received by deadline date.*

#### **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**

- Once applications are completed, request transcripts through Naviance

### October/November

- Take ACT/SAT if necessary
- Depending on application deadlines, you may still be working on August/September timeline
- Have SAT/ACT scores sent to schools you applied to - SAHS does not retain or send these scores
- Stop into guidance or email your counselor with any questions
- ALL college applications are strongly recommended to be submitted by Thanksgiving
- If required by a school, complete CSS Profile

### December/January/February

- FAFSA available in December - [HERE](#)
- If required by a school, complete CSS Profile
- Keep parents and guidance counselor posted on college decisions (accepted, denied, waitlisted)
- Record college decisions on Naviance
- Continue visiting and gathering information on schools you applied to
- Once first semester grades are finalized, request counselor send mid-year transcript if needed
- Keep looking for and applying for scholarships
- Write thank you notes to teachers/counselors who wrote you a recommendation

### March/April/May

- Continue to update parents, counselors, and Naviance on college decisions
- If you receive a wait-list decision, don't lose hope, stop into guidance to see your counselor
- Once you receive all decisions, compare financial aid packages
- Discuss college choice and finances with parents
- Send in deposit to final choice college not later than May 1

### June

- Once you have chosen the school you are attending, select that school in Naviance. This is how we know where to send your final transcript. Final transcripts are sent **after** grades are finalized. If after graduation your plans change, please call guidance so we can send your transcript to the appropriate school.
- Senior check out and Graduation!!!

