9th Grade

SAHS Guidance Newsletter

August 2026

SOUDERTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

COUNSELORS - (all grades)

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

Ms. Pichler (Co-Gan)
jpichler@soudertonsd.org

Mrs. Trout (Gao-J)
ntrout@soudertonsd.org

Mrs. Micciche (K-Mc)
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Mrs. Hardgrove (Me-P)
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Mr. Brown (Q-Sta)
tjbrown@soudertonsd.org

Mr. Glatts (Ste-Z)
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COLLEGE COUNSELOR

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

sahs_guidance

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MOBILE CRISIS SUPPORT
1-855-634-HOPE
(1-855-634-4673)
CLICK HERE

WELCOME CLASS OF 2030!

We are *so excited* to welcome you to Souderton Area High School! The intent of this newsletter is to provide you with enough information to alleviate some nerves but not overwhelm you. As a student at SAHS, you will receive information in a multitude of ways. The HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE is a great resource and where you will find many answers to your questions, including the high school's Daily Announcements. Many clubs, groups, and teams (including Guidance) have their own Instagram and/or Facebook pages. Be sure to follow along with those that interest you so you are always kept up to date.

As we welcome a new group of students into the high school, we recognize this is both an exciting and meaningful transition for families. Ninth grade marks the beginning of a journey filled with new opportunities, experiences, and personal growth. While the change from middle school can feel like a big step, students quickly begin to build confidence as they find their place, form new friendships, and explore their interests.

We encourage families to stay connected, offer support, and celebrate the small milestones along the way. With a strong partnership between home and school, students are well positioned to thrive, face new challenges, and make the most of the high school experience. We look forward to an incredible year ahead!

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION
8/28

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
9/1

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
For Parents!
9/2

First things first...

Who is my counselor?

Students With Last Names	Counselor	Counselor Email
A-Cl	Alison Kircher	akircher@soudertonsd.org
Co-Gan	Jennifer Pichler	jpichler@soudertonsd.org
Gao-J	Nickole Trout	ntrout@soudertonsd.org
K-Mc	Jennifer Micciche	jmicchiche@soudertonsd.org
Me-P	Kate Hardgrove	khardgrove@soudertonsd.org
Q-Sta	Tim Brown	tjbrown@soudertonsd.org
Ste-Z	Dan Glatts	dglatts@soudertonsd.org
GIEP A-Z College Counselor	Tom Overberger	toverberger@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Dawn Kester	dkester@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Susan Mroz	smroz@soudertonsd.org

Mrs. Kircher

Mrs. Pichler

Mrs. Trout

Mrs. Micciche

Mrs. Hardgrove

Mr. Brown

Mr. Glatts

Mr. Overberger

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 have an electronic a pass.

Meet Wheeler, our beloved facility dog! A gentle and goofy boy, Wheeler is always on a mission to brighten even the toughest of days. Whether he's trotting through the halls with is favorite toy, Lamby, or stopping to greet students, Wheeler brings smiles to everyone he meets. When he's not in a classroom or about the building, Wheeler can be found relaxing in the guidance office . Be sure to say hello when you see him.

Mrs. Noga

Mr. Klein

9/10 Student Services

The 9/10 Student Services office is located on the Lower Road side of the building, **THIRD FLOOR**. This office houses our 9th grade principal, Mrs. Noga, and our 10th grade dean of students, Mr. Klein. The office is a good resource for students to ask questions and receive additional support in making good decisions.

9th Grade Principal	Michelle Noga	mnoga@soudertonsd.org
10th Grade Dean of Students	Dave Klein	dklein@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Wendi Park	wpark@soudertonsd.org

Attendance

Attendance is located next to the Main Office and across from the Nurse's Office. The attendance procedures at SAHS are very similar to those at the middle schools. Notes are required for late arrivals, early dismissals, and absences. If a student does not turn in a parental excuse note by the third day following an absence, the absence will be coded unexcused/unlawful. For high school early dismissals, if an attendance note was provided in advance, parents/guardians do not have to enter the high school to sign their student out. Students will simply sign themselves out at the security desk and meet the parent/guardian outside, in the front of the building. Attendance notes should be emailed to attendance at attendsahs@soudertonsd.org

Administrative Assistant	Colleen Meehan	cmeehan@soudertonsd.org

Nurse/Health Services

Health Services is located directly across the hall from the main office and attendance. To see the nurse, students must have an electronic pass. CLICK HERE for Medication Policy Guidelines and HERE for Medication Administration Consent. Links to other forms can be found on the district website HERE.

The direct line to reach the nurse is 267-203-0119.

Nurse	Bonnie Miller	bomiller@soudertonsd.org
Nurse	Jennifer Kaufman	jkaufman@soudertronsd.org
Nursing Assistant	Kathy Holloway	kholloway@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Kristin Penna	kpenna@soudertonsd.org

Daily Routine

The high school runs on a block schedule. This is different than the middle school as our students attend fewer blocks per day for longer periods of time. Students attend four blocks/day with the exception of Mondays where we hold a short ***advisory*** period between 2nd and 3rd block called, Block 2.5. Students are assigned to a Block 2.5 and Block 2.5 teacher for all four years. This advisory period is designed to create peer connections, and learn key skills in the areas of organization, time management, goal setting, study skills, and communication. Freshmen benefit from this time by allowing them to receive guidance from upperclassmen and support from their teacher as they adjust to the increased academic rigor of high school and involvement in extracurricular activities at the high school level. The high school also holds RED ZONE everyday in the morning. RED ZONE is an opportunity for students to meet with teachers to ask questions, seek extra help, and to complete assignments. It's also a time clubs can meet. The cafeteria is open during RED ZONE for students to eat breakfast before classes.

2026-2027 Bell Schedule

STANDARD DAY

RED ZONE 7:25AM - 8:05AM
1st BLOCK 8:12AM - 9:36AM (Attendance taken at 8:12AM)
2nd BLOCK 9:43AM - 11:09AM
3rd BLOCK 11:16AM - 1:14PM
*A LUNCH 11:16AM - 11:46AM
(Class 11:50AM - 1:14PM)
*B LUNCH 12:00PM - 12:30PM
(Class 11:16AM - 11:57AM &
12:33PM - 1:14PM)
*C LUNCH 12:44PM - 1:14PM
(Class 11:16AM - 12:40PM)
4th BLOCK 1:21PM - 2:45PM

MONDAY BLOCK 2.5

RED ZONE 7:25AM - 8:05AM
1st BLOCK 8:12AM - 9:28AM (Attendance taken at 8:12AM)
2nd BLOCK 9:35AM - 10:52AM
BLOCK 2.5 10:59AM - 11:19AM
3rd BLOCK 11:26AM - 1:21PM
*A LUNCH 11:26AM - 11:56AM
(Class 12:01PM - 1:21PM)
*B LUNCH 12:05PM - 12:35PM
(Class 11:26AM - 12:02PM &
12:38PM - 1:21PM)
*C LUNCH 12:51PM - 1:21PM
(Class 11:26AM - 12:46PM)
4th BLOCK 1:28PM - 2:45PM

But…when is my lunch?

Lunch is based on your **third** block class.

You Have…	If your 3rd Block is:
A Lunch	Math, Science, PM NMTCC, ESL, Support Room, McGinley, Newlin, Szatkowski
B Lunch	English, Social Studies, Business, World Language, Dickerson, Maran, Ozeni, Stauffer
C Lunch	Wellness, Study Hall, Tech Ed, Art, FCS, Music, Aronow, Deitsch, Garrett, Lavely, Tirado

*PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is tentative and may change once the school year begins.

High School Breakfast	FREE
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 2026-2027 school year.

What about . . .

Gym

Many freshmen express concern over gym, gym lockers, and swimming. The wellness teacher will explain class expectations on the first day of class. After the first day, students are required to change for gym, but there **is not** a required uniform. School appropriate shorts, t-shirt, and athletic shoes are all that's needed. For swimming, males are expected to wear swim trunks and females are expected to wear a one piece bathing suit. Any questions can be answered by your physical education teacher on the first day of class. Gym lockers at SAHS do not have locks. Please bring in a combination lock to secure your belongings during gym. We ask that you remove the lock after each class and bring it back in for the next class.

Lockers

Not all students use lockers at the high school but if a student would like to have a locker assigned to them, they simply need to stop by Guidance (**once school starts**) and request one! We will work with students to come up with the best location according to their class schedule and/or bus. See Mrs. Kester in Guidance.

School Supply Suggestions

By the time most students come to the high school, they have a good idea of how they like to organize their school work. Some students keep everything in one binder while others prefer multiple small binders. Although students should figure out what works best for them, below is a list of *suggestions* meant to guide students in purchasing school supplies. Teachers will discuss the particular needs for their class the first few days of school but the list below will get you started. ***Some type of agenda is strongly recommended for ALL students.***

English 9	3 ring binder, writing utensils, lined paper
US History	3 ring binder, pencils, highlighter
Science 9	3 ring binder with dividers that can be labeled, pens, pencils, erasers
Algebra I	TI-84 plus graphing calculator (can be used all four years at the high school and into college), 3 ring binder, paper, folder, pencils, erasers, single spiral notebook
Foreign Language	Spiral notebook (70 page) or a 3 ring binder with dividers, pencils, colored pen, dry erase markers, headphones/earbuds that connect to computer

Technology

Students will receive their laptops during the first few days of school in Block 2.5. 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, SCHOOLOGY, NAVIANCE)

FOR HELP WITH:
- *HOME ACCESS - GO TO GUIDANCE OR STUDENT SERVICES

Transportation - Drop-off...Pick-up...Late Bus

Most freshman take the bus. As in middle school, buses drop students off in the bus loop and are lined up in the bus loop at the end of the day. To assist in finding your bus at the end of the day, maps are posted at every bus loop exit showing where buses will be parked. Students will practice bus procedures at Freshmen Orientation.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of traffic at the high school. For this reason, we ask parents to adhere to the following guidelines.

Student DROP-OFF takes place in the REAR of the building.

Parents are asked to enter through the Halteman entrance and follow the drop off line, having your student exit the vehicle at the curb.

Student PICK-UP takes place in the FRONT of the building.

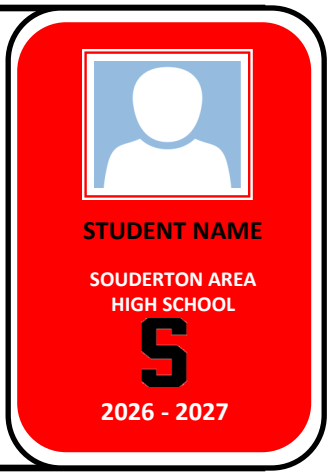
We kindly ask parents **NOT** to pick up in the rear of our school as this is where our students with special needs get their buses.

Beginning September 15th, late buses run Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, leaving the high school at 4:10PM. This allows many students to stay after school for clubs or to meet with teachers. Students should approach one of the late bus drivers and ask which bus will be going to their address. The driver will advise the student as to which bus they should take.

School IDs are needed at the high school! Students use them to sign in when they arrive late, attend dances/events, and make purchases from the cafeteria. They are generated from pictures taken on picture day in the fall. Even if you do not want to purchase pictures, we ask ***ALL*** students to have their picture taken so they will get an ID. If you lose your ID, please go to the main office.

FALL PICTURE DAY: Wednesday, September 9th

FALL PICTURE RETAKES: Tuesday, October 13th



Summer Reading Assignments - Honors English 9

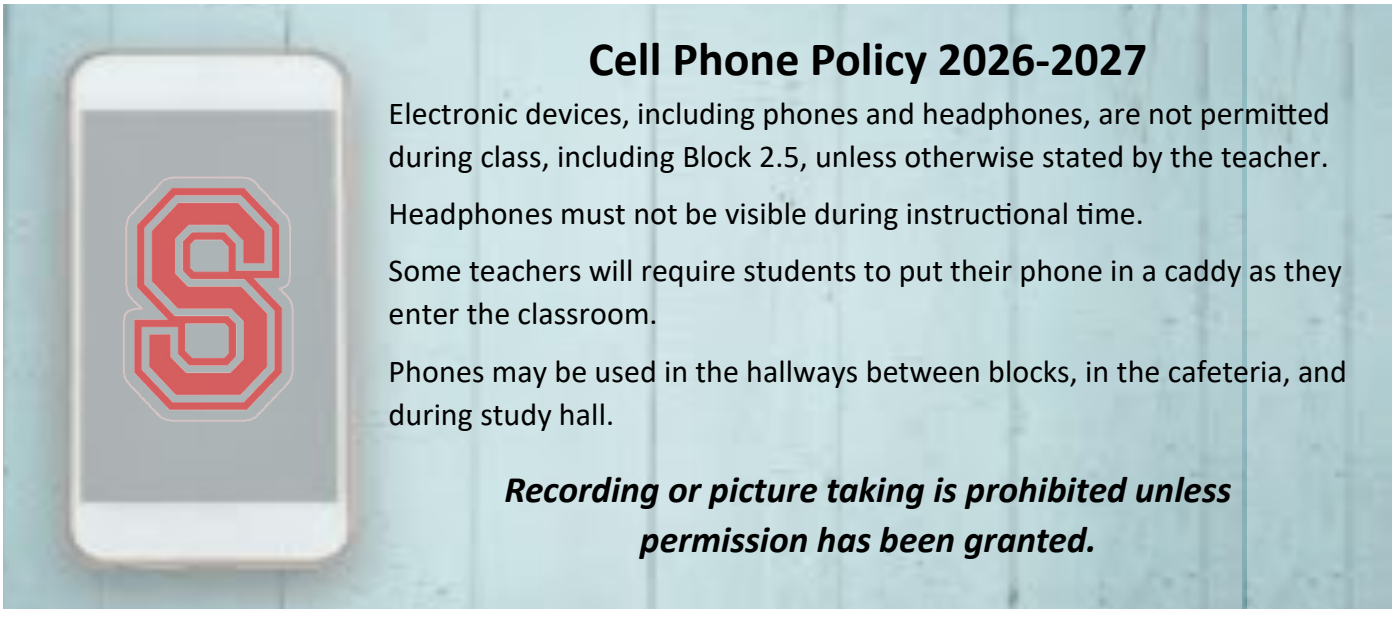
Be sure to have your summer reading completed prior to the start of school. If your English class is second semester, it's still a good idea to do the reading over the summer and take notes you can review when it comes time for the assessment. Students can expect an assessment on their summer reading early in the semester. The assessment will count as no more than 15% of the first marking period. More information available HERE.

Honors English 9 required reading for 2026-2027 school year is:

1. *The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway*
2. *The Help by Kathryn Stockett*

Evacuation Drills

During the first week of school, Block 2.5 teachers will review the evacuation procedures with students. Students will be advised where to meet their Block 2.5 on both the bus loop and the football field. Students are encouraged to make a note of their Block 2.5 teacher's name as well as their bus loop and field meeting spots on their phone. For the safety of all, it is ***IMPERITIVE*** students take all drills/incidents seriously and immediately report to their assigned Block 2.5 locations for attendance.



Cell Phone Policy 2026-2027

Electronic devices, including phones and headphones, are not permitted during class, including Block 2.5, unless otherwise stated by the teacher.

Headphones must not be visible during instructional time.

Some teachers will require students to put their phone in a caddy as they enter the classroom.

Phones may be used in the hallways between blocks, in the cafeteria, and during study hall.

Recording or picture taking is prohibited unless permission has been granted.

Get Involved . . .

Spread the Spirit!!!

Having school spirit can strengthen a child's bond to their school and have a positive effect on academics and behavior. School spirit changes the academic climate of the school and can improve the connectedness your child feels to what happens in school and the community. The students at SAHS have always shown great school spirit and to encourage this, students are admitted **FREE** to SAHS sporting events (with student ID) with the exception of football games. Student admission to football games is only $5 and should be purchased in advance, online. No cash sales are available.

Activities/Clubs

There really is something for everyone here at SAHS! Our club fair takes place **September 14th**, during Block 2.5. Meet with representatives from more than 70 clubs! If you can't find a club that addresses your interests, start a new one! Stop by 2nd floor student services for more information!

CLICK HERE FOR THE CLUB LIST.

Activity Fee

CLICK HERE TO PAY ONLINE

The high school has a student activity fee of **$175.00** which will be paid by all students choosing to participate in any co-curricular activity, either athletic or non-athletic. Excluding, but not limited to service clubs, student empowerment groups (Student Government and Student Council), and accredited courses.

Provisions will be made for 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.

SAHS Athletics

Fall Sports
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football
Golf
Soccer
Tennis (Girls)
Volleyball (Girls)
Water Polo

Winter Sports
Basketball
Diving
Indoor Track
Swimming
Unified Bocce
Wrestling

Spring Sports
Baseball
Lacrosse
Softball
Tennis (Boys)
Track
Volleyball (Boys)

Year Round Sports
Unified Outdoor Track

Athletes are **REQUIRED** to complete the following steps:

- Have a sports physical completed by a doctor after **6/1/26**
- Register your athlete for their sport, answer all necessary questions and upload your physical HERE.
- Pay activity fee AFTER tryouts

Athletics Office Phone: 215 723 7630
https://soudertonathletics.org/

Athletic Director	Dennis Stanton	dstanton@soudertonsd.org
Administrative Assistant	Owen Wicen	owicen@soudertonsd.org

What is...

HOME ACCESS CENTER - HAC is a portal that students and parents/guardians can log onto and view their student's grades, schedule, attendance, etc. Students should be checking HAC on a weekly basis to monitor their grades and assignments. HAC is how students and parents/guardians will view report cards. Student or parent questions about login/password can be answered in Student Services or Guidance.

LINK CREW - Link Crew is a student leadership/mentor program focused on welcoming freshmen to high school, making them feel comfortable throughout their first year, and helping them discover academic success through the support of their peers. Link Crew runs programs throughout the year in Block 2.5 and RED ZONE.

NAVIANCE - Naviance is a program that assists students in their career exploration, college search, and the college application process. Students will be introduced to Naviance in Career Exploration class and will continue to use Naviance through high school.

PATHWAY 360° - The Pathways program helps students discover their strengths, set goals, and explore career options while still in high school. Every student will be given a pathwayMANAGER account which will allow them to keep track of classes, credits, job shadows/mentorships, and written reflections. CLICK HERE for Pathway Information by Grade.

RED ALERT - Red Alert is a LIVE student run broadcast from our very own TV studio. It is broadcast every Friday and is the best show in the 10:49AM timeslot! Red Alert is taken as a class offered to upperclassmen. Interested? Talk to your guidance counselor!

RED ZONE - RED ZONE is a 30 minute period at the start of every school day that provides students the opportunity to meet with teachers to ask questions, seek extra help, and to complete assignments. It's also a time for clubs to meet. Attendance is taken after RED ZONE at the start of first block. The cafeteria is open during RED ZONE for students to purchase and eat breakfast before classes.

SCHOOLOGY - Schoology is a learning management system which allows students to access course content, use class resources, participate in discussions, and submit assignments. Students will use Schoology on a daily basis.

TECH HUB - The SAHS Tech Hub will assist student's with malfunctioning 1:1 devices. It is located in the library and open during school hours.

Important Dates

Important Dates

Important Dates

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

AUG 28

Friday, August 28th, 7:40AM-12:00PM

Buses will pick up freshmen at their AM bus stop and drop them off after noon. We ask freshmen to dress comfortably and be open to participate in fun activities run by our outstanding Link Crew!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

SEP 1

Tuesday, September 1st

Since room assignments might change throughout the summer, be sure to bring a ***recently*** printed copy of your schedule. The first two days of school will start in Block 2.5. There, your teacher will welcome you and review school wide procedures. Link Crew leaders (in identifiable shirts) will be throughout the building to answer any questions and provide directions. They are happy to help, so please don't hesitate to ask.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

SEP 2

Wednesday, September 2nd, 6:30PM-7:30PM

Parents will follow their student's FIRST SEMESTER schedule which can be printed from Home Access Center (HAC). Parents should plan to arrive early and use both Lower Road and Halteman Entrances. We will begin promptly at 6:30PM.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLACK LIGHT DANCE

SEP 11

Friday, September 11th, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Grab your NEON and be prepared to get this year off to a GREAT start! Attire is comfortable and tickets are sold at the door. Bring your school ID.