



Junior Newsletter

Grade 11/12 High School Guidance

Mr. Overberger

A-G

Mr. Barber

H-O

Mrs. Grant

P-Z

Souderton Area High School

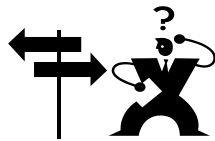
CEEB Code 394635

SEPTEMBER

Welcome back to another year at SAHS! There are many memorable experiences that are going to happen this year, to include: athletic contests, concerts, play, musical, extracurricular activities, jobs, fun and challenging classes, and for most, the start of the college admissions process!



This process can be fun, exciting, stressful, confusing, overwhelming, and one that you will learn many things about yourself and your future goals. To enhance the positive and in order to make this the best possible experience for you and your family, we have included a timeline in this newsletter with different benchmarks that you may want to accomplish each month. This should help keep the college selection process more manageable and organized. Your college decision will have a strong impact on your future jobs and career. Further, it is a major financial commitment. Knowing how significant this decision will be, it is important that you take the time to make an educated and well informed decision as to the best school for you.



Each month, a newsletter will come out to discuss the many different aspects of the college admissions process. After reading the newsletters, please contact your counselor if you have any questions or need any clarification on information presented.

Things to keep an eye out for in upcoming newsletters:

- ⇒ Naviance (a computer based college program that all college bound students will use through graduation).
- ⇒ Notification about parent presentations that will take place this year, such as Exploring the College Admissions Process and Financial Aid.
- ⇒ Info on what colleges are looking for, differences between college and high school, college visits, recommendations, essays, etc.



This year, it will be important to:

- ⇒ Get the best grades that you possibly can
- ⇒ Learn or improve study skills
- ⇒ Stay committed to extracurricular activities and/or join new ones. Take on a leadership role in something you do.
- ⇒ Be prepared to take the PSAT in October and the SAT/ACT in the spring
- ⇒ Communicate with your parent(s) about the steps you are taking in school and in your college selection process. It is extremely important to discuss the finances of college too!
- ⇒ Improve on your responsibility and learn to do things independently. Students: your parents will not be with you in college, so learning to do things for yourself now will significantly help your success on a college campus. Communication is a significant part of independence! Parents: teaching independence will bring a lifetime full of rewards for your child. Do things **with** them, not **for** them!





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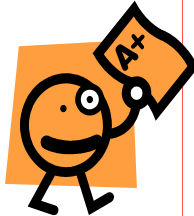
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SEPTEMBER

PSAT

All juniors will take the PSAT in mid October. Every junior is automatically registered and there is no fee for the exam. Results will be available and distributed to students during 5th block in December.



SAT/ACT

Plan your SAT/ACT accordingly. Here are a few tips:

- ⇒ Students applying to rolling admissions schools may want to take the SAT/ACT twice during the spring of their junior year because they may be applying to schools before taking them again in October. You have space in between testing dates so there is time to improve. This will also provide a strong foundation if needing to take again in senior year to earn a higher score if needed.
- ⇒ Take Algebra II before taking the SAT
- ⇒ Students applying to highly selective schools, may need to take the SAT Subject tests. Make sure they are needed and which ones to take before scheduling.
- ⇒ More SAT/ACT info in the October newsletter
- ⇒ **SAHS offers the SAT in October, March and May, and the ACT in October and April.**

FALL COLLEGE FAIR

Each fall, SAHS hosts a college fair one day during first block for students to attend. This is a great way for students to gather information and ask questions to over 125 college reps. The fair takes place during first block on a Monday either Sept or October. Please see the HS website for the specific date. SAHS also hosts an evening Spring College Fair for students and parents to attend (date TBD).

Extracurricular Activities

It is never too late to get involved. There are many activities available for students to participate. Your activities, community service, and job can be helpful for colleges to learn more about you. Colleges are looking for students that get involved and who give back to their school and community.

Quality involvement is better than **quantity**. Research shows that students that are involved with their school earn better grades than students who are not.

A list of SAHS activities may be found at:

<http://sahs.soudertonsd.org/activities/guide.cfm>

OPEN LIBRARY

The library is open every Thursday after school from 3:00-4:00 pm starting in late-September. Students are invited to come in to complete homework, work in groups, use a computer, read or receive help or just have extra library time. Tutors will be available to offer academic assistance. Students must arrive by 3:15 and sign in. A 4:00 late bus is available.

If interested in being a tutor, please contact Mrs. Radcliffe, cradcliff@soudertonsd.org.





EXPLORING THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Souderton Area High School

- Date:** Thursday, October 6, 2016
- Time:** 6:00 pm (approximately 1 hour)
- For:** SAHS parents
(students are also welcome!)
- Location:** SAHS Auditorium
- No registration necessary -
- 



Souderton Area
Souderton Area
High School

FINANCIAL AID
NIGHT

Thursday, September 15, 2016
6:00 pm

SAHS Auditorium

Presenter: Michael F. Burke, Higher Education
Access Partner - Southeast Region Pennsylvania
Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

- No registration necessary -

Sponsored by SAHS Guidance

NAVIANCE



A web-based college program, Naviance offers a **thorough college search**, as it provides information and links to every college in the US and beyond. The goal of the 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 their college search and potential colleges**, conduct a detailed college search, view college maps, take virtual college tours to certain colleges, complete surveys and questionnaires, obtain scholarship opportunities and also see how they **compare 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. The confirmation email they receive will act as their hall pass to attend the event.

Through Naviance, students are also able to take interest inventories, explore and research careers and college majors.

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 in areas of college and career search, financial aid, test prep and military.

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 of NAVIANCE to make the most informed college decision.**

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

Get answers to many of your Guidance related questions at:

<http://sahs.soudertonsd.org/guidance/>

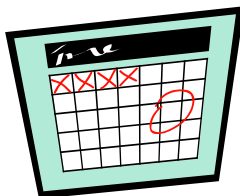
JUNIOR YEAR

College Planning

Time Line

September/October

- ⇒ Communicate with parents about college/career plans
- ⇒ Stay involved in extracurricular activities
- ⇒ Attend College fair at SAHS (*during AM. Date TBD*)
- ⇒ Take the PSAT
- ⇒ Register/navigate on Naviance



November/December

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

January/February/March

- ⇒ Register for spring SAT/ACT test dates
- ⇒ Expand college search by using online references and publications in guidance
- ⇒ Continue to utilize Naviance to modify college list
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Attend evening Spring College Fair at SAHS (Date TBD). Limited to local colleges that are most attended by SAHS students.

April/May

- ⇒ Take SAT/SAT II/ACT tests, if needed
- ⇒ Sign up for College Sneak Preview in guidance office (*Sneak Preview is an in depth college selection meeting that occurs in small groups in the college center*)
- ⇒ Continue to utilize Naviance to modify college list
- ⇒ Request information from colleges on your list
- ⇒ Visit colleges and open house programs
- ⇒ Communicate with admission officers
- ⇒ Communicate with your parents about your college search progress
- ⇒ AP exams for students taking these courses
- ⇒ Continue to utilize Naviance to develop a college list
- ⇒ Draft summer plans, especially internship/educational experiences

June

- ⇒ Take SAT/SAT II/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!**

July/August

- ⇒ Visit colleges
- ⇒ Communicate with admission officers
- ⇒ Narrow college choices to 5-8 schools
- ⇒ Athletes – register with NCAA
- ⇒ Begin writing "rough" draft for application essays, if needed

