



# Junior Newsletter

Grade 11/12 High School Guidance  
Mr. Overberger  
Mr. Barber  
Mrs. Grant

A-G  
H-O  
P-Z

Souderton Area High School  
CEEB Code 394635

## DEC/JAN



### WHERE ARE YOU?

- Have you begun to explore colleges?
- Are you aware of what you need in a college to be successful?
- Do you know what you want in a college to enjoy your time there?
- Have you logged into Naviance?
- Have you utilized other college based websites or resources to conduct your search.
- Do you understand what is necessary to conduct an appropriate college search
- Have you met with your guidance counselor to discuss your college search.
- Are you familiar with admissions requirements for each school.
- Have you spoken to your parents regarding your search and the potential cost of specific schools.**



As students conduct their college search, you should be finding schools that meet both your needs and wants, resulting in the right “fit”. Once finding your right fit colleges, they can be organized in the following groups to best guide you toward your admission possibilities. When applying to colleges your senior year, you want to find a combination of colleges from each group, maximizing hopeful acceptances. Consult your counselor with questions on your college search.

**Safe School**—Schools in which you are almost certain that you will be accepted because you have exceeded all admissions requirements.

**Match School**—A school in which you fall in the middle of all admissions requirements. There are no guarantees, but it is possible and maybe even probable to be accepted to several of these schools.

**Reach School**— After reviewing admissions requirements, there is a chance of being accepted, but you are on the low side or below the requirements. **PLEASE NOTE, all highly selective colleges and universities should be considered reach schools. The admissions requirements at these schools are so high that no one is guaranteed admissions, regardless of your grades, test scores, or activities.**



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## Course Selection Update

By the end of February, each student will have completed courses selection with their counselor. The schedule will not be developed until every student meets with their counselor, so there is no advantage to being the first or last student. Key points for course selection:

- We met with students in first semester SS courses in December and will meet with second semester SS courses (including AP SS courses) in February.
- Discuss course selection and if you haven't already your post secondary plans with your parents!
- Come prepared!!! Students should prepare by carefully reviewing the Pathway Tracker, <https://pathwaystracker.soudertonsd.org/> and high school program of studies website, <http://sahs.soudertonsd.org/academics/pos/>. Students should carefully view both to learn about the description of each course as well as course prerequisites. Students should speak with teachers for recommendations of classes to take in a specific subject area.
- At your course selection meeting, discuss your future career/educational goals with your counselor to select the most appropriate courses. You can also discuss preliminary college selection during this time.
- Select rigorous courses that reflect your intellect and interests. Colleges want to see students challenge themselves during their senior year. College admissions reps will recognize if you choose to select easy courses. This will not be to your benefit! We discourage you from selecting too many senior privilege or study halls.
- The goal of course selection is for students to select the most rigorous schedule that will allow success.....but do not overdo it!

Remember, course selection is a process! All students will select courses before the schedule is made, giving each student an equal opportunity to receive their desired courses. **STUDENTS MAY CHANGE THEIR COURSE REQUESTS THROUGH MAY 1.** This gives them an opportunity to participate in every class, even MP4 courses before the deadline. Students will receive their schedules in mid-May. **IF A STUDENT RECEIVES A COURSE THAT WAS REQUESTED, THEY WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO CHANGE. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE INFORMED REQUESTS.** Contact your counselor prior to May 1 to make a change to a previously requested course.



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## Definitions continued:

**Associate's Degree:** A degree received usually from 2-3 years of academic or occupationally specific coursework. Students attending Community College will typically receive an associate degree.

**Bachelor's Degree:** A degree received at an accredited institution in an academic area that usually takes between 3—5 years of study.

**Common Application:** A standard application for participating members. The Common Application is accepted by over 400 colleges and universities. The benefit of the Common Application is that students can fill it out once and send it to each member school they are applying.

**Rolling Admission:** Applications are reviewed upon being received by admissions office and acceptance/denial decision is made on a case-by-case basis. Usually takes 4-8 weeks.

**Deadline Admission:** Applications are reviewed after a set deadline. Applicants are accepted/denied based on the other applicants that submitted.

**Early Action:** Students can apply early and receive their decision notification early. Students can apply to multiple schools early action and the decision is non-binding.

**Early Decision:** Students can apply early and receive their decision notification early. The decision is binding (meaning you must attend if accepted) and can only apply to one school early decision.

**State School:** Public Universities that are state funded. There are 14 universities that are part of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE): Bloomsburg, California University of PA, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, , Edinboro, Indiana University of PA (IUP), Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, West Chester

**State Affiliated:** Partial state funding. Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Temple

**Private Colleges:** Colleges independently owned and operated and are not supported by state taxes. Local examples include: Arcadia, Delaware Valley, DeSales, Ursinus.

**SAT:** College entrance exam. Scores are from 200-800 per section on Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math, and optional Writing.

**SAT II:** Also known as the SAT Subject Test. Required by highly selective universities and taken in addition to SAT or ACT. Should only be taken if required. Students can take the SAT II in subjects such as Mathematics, Chemistry, German, Latin, US History, English, etc.

**ACT—** College entrance exam. Test consists of English Math, Reading, Science, optional Writing. Students receive a score in each area in addition to a Composite score. Scores range from 1-36 per section

***SAT and ACT are interchangeable and students can decide which to take. Differences between the two appeared in the October Newsletter.***



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Juniors should be utilizing Naviance in their college search. The more students prepare today, the more likely they are to find and attend a school that “fits” their needs and wants, ultimately, increasing their likelihood of academic success and earning a college diploma. Being a major personal, family and financial decision, students and families need to put in the appropriate time to discuss and make the most beneficial selections. The search is the most time consuming, yet important aspect of the process. If students put forth an effort during the search stage, applications will be the easy part. If students are in need of their Naviance registration information, they should stop by the guidance office.

Students can utilize Naviance for:

- \* Generating a college list from College Matchmaker
- \* Researching and gaining information on specific colleges
- \* Gaining additional resources for college search, financial aid, test prep, college athletics and military
- \* Comparing colleges
- \* Signing up to meet with a college rep visiting SAHS (most visits in early fall and spring)
- \* Viewing scattergram data, with the GPA and test scores of students who applied to each college. See where you compare to SAHS students who were accepted and denied.
- \* Interest/career/major exploration
- \* Scholarship opportunities
- \* View maps for college locations
- \* Requesting transcripts and recommendations as a senior

# Helpful Websites

CollegeWeek Live

Are you interested in a college in Florida, Texas, California or any college that is outside of a day trip to visit? Then you may want to visit, <http://www.collegeweeklive.com/>

This interactive website offers:

- ⇒ college fairs, virtual open houses, live chats with admissions reps and current students for Q & A from colleges all over the world.
- ⇒ an easy way to gain and learn more about colleges that you do not have easy access too.
- ⇒ Webinar opportunities on topics such as financial aid, paying for college, transferring schools, college life, etc.

**A great website for information searching and networking possibilities.**

## Other options

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

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

[www.theadmissiongame.com](http://www.theadmissiongame.com) - Helpful blogs regarding countless college questions

Find out which colleges do not require SAT or ACT scores at: <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

Estimate how much financial aid you may be eligible for: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>

Understand financial aid and paying for college: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/>

Considering playing a college sport? Visit the [NCAA eligibility center](#)



Students interested in Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Schools should visit the following interactive website: [www.passhe.edu](http://www.passhe.edu)

PASSHE Universities include:

Bloomsburg	Kutztown
California U of PA	Lock Haven
Cheyney	Mansfield
Clarion	Millersville
East Stroudsburg	Shippensburg
Edinboro	Slippery Rock
Indiana U of PA	West Chester

# 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
- ⇒ Take the PSAT (October)

## November/December

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

## January/February/March

- ⇒ Register for spring SAT test dates
- ⇒ Begin and expand college search by using online references and publications in guidance
- ⇒ Course registration for next year. Prepare a challenging senior year course schedule with advice from teachers/counselor

## April/May

- ⇒ 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*)
- ⇒ Draft "smart" list of colleges
- ⇒ Request information from colleges on your list

## April/May (cont'd)

- ⇒ Visit colleges and open house programs
- ⇒ Communicate with your parents about your progress
- ⇒ AP exams for students taking these courses
- ⇒ Draft summer plans, especially internship/educational experiences

## June

- ⇒ Take SAT I and II 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

