

SOLEBURY.EDU

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



A SNEAK PEEK
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You're Seniors!

Class of 2026

September is here. Dorms are opening, Fall sports are practicing. Mike's Cafe is stocking up on coffee and treats. Your class schedule is set. Anthony is eager to see your smiling faces. Add on college applications, and you're in for a busy start to the year!

Will colleges actually care about my senior year grades? YES. It is a common misconception that senior year grades don't count toward admissions, and that colleges only look at the grades from the first three years. Well, before any decisions are made, most colleges look at a minimum of the 1st trimester of senior year (we send these to every school you've applied to), and they often require the second trimester, too.

Once I get accepted I can take it easy, right? No, not really. Read your acceptance letter. You'll probably see something along the lines of "Admission into XYZ College is contingent upon successful completion of an approved high school curriculum." If a college sees your grades slip too much, they reserve the right to rescind your acceptance. It happens, and Tim can share stories from his past work in college admissions. Keep in mind that "successful completion" is a subjective term, and different colleges will define it differently. With that said, we hope that you continue working hard in senior year, so that you are best prepared to start a new adventure at the college of your choice. We're rooting for you!

Checking In

September Meetings

It was great to see so many of your faces over the summer as you worked through your essay prompts, recounted college tours, and asked application questions.

All seniors will need to set up a follow-up meeting in September so that we can know where you are in the application process (what progress you have made and what you still need to do) and better help you move forward. Not only does this prepare you for the college interview and allow you to ask questions, it also helps us to prepare your recommendation and provide you with the proper guidance. We also ask that you **fill out [this short questionnaire](#)** to update us on your college search.

Welcome!

New to Solebury

We would like to extend a warm Solebury welcome to our new seniors and postgraduate student. So, welcome Max Ferrer Lubezki, Eliot Malas, and Ryan Plaza! And welcome back, Mirabel Roxey! We are thrilled that you are part of our wonderful community. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the college process.

Financial Aid Events

FAFSA and Financing

One of the top questions that parents frequently ask, especially with the uncertainty of the current economy, is “How can I afford to send my kids to college?” Too often colleges are ruled out because of sticker shock. Looking at the high cost of tuition, room, board and fees can be discouraging. However, most colleges offer a comprehensive financial aid program to help combat these costs and make your college dream a reality. It is the bottom line costs, after financial aid, for each college that you should compare to determine which is most affordable.

Last year, we had a Financial Aid Webinar hosted by Salve Regina University, covering topics such as: what you need to do to be considered, answers to frequently asked questions, different types of aid available and more. We are thrilled to share that his event will return on November 5. In addition, we will be offering a College Financing webinar on October 22 and a FAFSA completion night in November or December.

In Your Own Words

The Essay(s)

Whether it is your personal statement or supplemental essay, we are always happy to look over your writing and provide feedback. Please keep in mind that once the application crunch begins in October we may not be able to provide more than just basic grammatical feedback. So take advantage of our offer while you can!

The essay is a chance for you to present a new dimension of yourself to the admissions committee. It can help you to stand out from the thousands of other applications and increase your chance of acceptance. However, the essay can also turn an admissions counselor off if it is not well written. We suggest that you ask just a few people for feedback so that you are not getting too many suggestions! In the past, we have had admissions officers present their thoughts on the essay in the Personal Essay Writing class, and we hope to do the same this year.

Mark Your Calendar

Meeting Deadlines

If there's ever been a good time to stay organized, this fall is one of those times! Mark your calendar with these important upcoming dates:

Sept. 12: Registration Deadline for October 18 ACT. Transportation for boarding students will be available to Neshaminy HS (Langhorne, PA) only.

Sept. 19: Registration Deadline for October 4 SAT. Transportation for boarding students will be available to Central Bucks East (Doylestown, PA) only.

Oct. 3: Deadline to request transcripts for college applications with a November 1 through November 20 due date. *To request your transcript to be sent to a college, log on to SCOIR, go to the “My Colleges” page and drag the college from “Following” to “Applying” (and once you complete the application, drag the college to “Applied”).*

The first rule of applying to colleges is to MEET THE DEADLINES. Failure to do so means you will be less likely to gain acceptance.

Testing 1-2-3

SAT/ACT Scores

If your scores aren't where you'd like them to be, don't panic. Over 80% of the colleges in this country recognize that and have gone test optional. So while test scores are somewhat important, they are not the MOST important (strong grades in a strong curriculum is #1). We encourage seniors, if possible, to take the SAT and/or ACT again in senior year, as colleges will take your highest scores into consideration.

College Visits

Who's Coming to Campus?

We have a list of 84 colleges (and growing) currently scheduled to visit Solebury this fall. Visits typically run about 45 minutes and will not be tied to the beginning and end of periods. You may miss part of 1-2 classes but you will not be missing a full class. At this point we only have 9 students signed up for visits, so please log into SCOIR, scroll down to the calendar, and click “Register” for any schools you are interested in!

In the August newsletter, there is a list of guidelines for college visits. Please follow these guidelines if you wish to meet with a college representative. In-person visits will be in the carriage house. If the visit is virtual, we will provide links to registered students prior to the visit. All scheduled visits will be posted on SCOIR and in the dining hall.

Upcoming Test Dates*

ACT | October 18

Registration closes September 12 for the October 18 ACT. Register [here](#)

SAT | October 4

Registration closes September 19 for the October 4 SAT. Register [here](#).

Boarders must sign up for ACT/SAT transportation through SCOIR.

“Score Choice”

There is an SAT Policy called “Score Choice” where students can choose only to send scores from certain sittings of the SAT or individual Subject Tests when multiple are taken on one day. Our opinion of this is that since colleges only consider the highest scores anyway (either mixing and matching highest individual scores from different sittings or using the highest combined score from one sitting), then it is not necessary to spend the extra money to withhold scores.



Important Dates

September 13- HBCU Fair, Bucks County Community College, 10:00-3:00
Register [here](#).

September 14 - National Virtual College Fair, 1:00-6:00*

October 1 - The 2026-2027 FAFSA is expected to be available

October 22nd, 7pm - Webinar with [The College Funding Coach](#)

November 5th 7pm - Financial Aid Night, hosted virtually by Salve Regina University's Financial Aid Office

* There will be other fairs in the fall where Solebury will provide transportation to interested students (with preference going to senior boarders). Look for those in the next newsletter.

The following colleges are currently scheduled to hold visits through the end of September:

Chapman University (CA): Tue., Sep. 9, 8:30
New York University: Tue., Sep. 9, 10:00
Bucks County Community College (PA): Tue., Sep. 9, 10:45
Villanova University (PA): Tue., Sep. 9, 12:15
Quinnipiac University (CT): Thurs., Sep 11, 10:45
University of Rhode Island: Mon., Sep. 15, 10:00
Goucher College (MD): Mon., Sep. 15, 11:30
Penn State University: Mon., Sep. 15, 1:45
Connecticut College: Tue., Sep. 16, 10:00
Susquehanna University (PA): Wed., Sep 17, 10:45
Franklin & Marshall (PA): Wed., Sep 17, 10:45
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA): Wed., Sep 17, 1:45
Gettysburg College (PA): Thu., Sep 18, 11:30
Moravian University (PA): Thu., Sep 18, 12:15
Syracuse University (NY): Thu., Sep 18, 2:45
Ursinus College (PA): Fri., Sep 19, 11:30
Widener University (PA): Fri., Sep 19, 12:15
Monmouth University (NJ): Mon., Sep 22, 11:30
University of Richmond (VA): Tue., Sep 23, 8:30
Ithaca College (NY): Tue., Sep 23, 9:15
Savannah College of Art and Design (GA): Tue., Sep 23, 10:00
Boston College (MA): Tue., Sep 23, 10:45
Washington College (MD): Tue., Sep 23, 11:30
University of Miami (FL): Tue., Sep 23, 1:00
Emerson College (MA): Tue., Sep 23, 1:45
Bryant University (RI): Wed., Sep 24, 10:45
The New School (NY): Wed., Sep 24, 12:15
Occidental College (CA): Wed., Sep 24, 1:45
Elon University (NC): Wed., Sep 24, 2:30
Delaware Valley University (PA): Thurs., Sep 25, 10:00
University of Massachusetts (Lowell): Fri., Sep 26, 8:30
Neumann University (PA): Fri., Sep 26, 11:30
University of Vermont: Fri., Sep 26, 11:30
Skidmore College (NY): Fri., Sep 26, 1:00
University of Pennsylvania: Tue., Sep 30, 9:15
The College of New Jersey: Tue., Sep 30, 10:00
University of Chicago (IL): Tue., Sep 30, 1:00

*Please note that this list is subject to change. Schools may change their visit time or date, and we may add other schools to the list. Look for weekly college visit e-mails!

Final Thoughts

Just Ask!

We plan to be in the office most of the fall. However, we will be attending the annual conference for the National Association for College Admission Counseling later this month, and we may be attending online and in-person workshops for various colleges. These experiences allow us to connect with admissions professionals and learn more about the college landscape. We've done quite a bit of traveling this summer, too, so feel free to ask about where we've been and what we've learned!

Our advice to you as you begin your final year of high school is to stay organized and study hard. Meeting deadlines and maintaining strong grades and coursework will serve you well!

Tim Gallen
tgallen@solebury.org
Carriage House
(215) 862-5261 x111

Erin Wallace
ewallace@solebury.org
PAC
(215) 862-5261 x220
[Scheduling link!](#)

[Solebury College Counseling Web Page](#)

CEEB/ACT Code: 392955

Our [handbook!](#)

