

19 THINGS

YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT SOLEBURY



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255
ENROLLMENT

11
AVERAGE CLASS
SIZE

6:1
STUDENT TO
FACULTY RATIO

57
ART ELECTIVES
OFFERED (VARIES
BY TRIMESTER)

33%
STUDENTS OF
COLOR

BOARDING AND DAY - GRADES 9-12, PG

48% **52%**
BOARDING DAY

**140 ACRE
CAMPUS** IN NEW HOPE, PA



75 MINUTES FROM
NEW YORK CITY

50 MINUTES FROM
PHILADELPHIA



15%
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

8:30_{AM}
FIRST CLASS START TIME
(AND WEDNESDAYS IT'S 9:00!)



SOLEBURY
AT A GLANCE

About Solebury School

Nestled on a rolling 140-acre campus in the Pennsylvania countryside in historic Bucks County, Solebury students and faculty pursue learning as an exciting, shared endeavor. This unique approach to education is not happenstance, but a cornerstone of Solebury's educational philosophy. At Solebury, the individual is prized. To achieve and sustain a vibrant atmosphere in which students are known for their own unique personalities and gifts, Solebury remains intentionally small. Our size fosters high-quality communication among students, teachers, and parents. Solebury students are encouraged to express themselves and to strive for personal excellence—intellectually, artistically, and athletically. The result is a one-of-a-kind dynamic learning environment, characterized by creativity and diversity, and an ethos of cooperative learning between students and teachers.

Our Community Code

Solebury School strives to build a community guided by honesty, respect, and integrity. We seek to establish a safe and healthy environment, promote ethical behavior, and foster a spirit that furthers the well-being of all. To accept membership in this community is to accept and embrace responsibility, to uphold the culture of Solebury School, and to carry these ideals into the larger world.

Diversity

Solebury promotes profound respect for each individual and recognizes how diversity enriches a community. This deeply engrained philosophy dates to our founding in 1925. We invite you to join this inclusive community of learners who challenge assumptions and acknowledge differences of every kind, including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith preference, age, physical ability, and more. We value and actively cultivate our diverse composition of faculty, staff, and students, and we honor our commitment to inclusivity with related all-school events and assemblies, by hosting multiple affinity clubs, and by participating in local outreach programs.

NEED TO KNOW

#1

Solebury is in the middle of a vibrant East Coast hub—just 75 minutes from New York City and 50 minutes from Philadelphia.

NEED TO KNOW

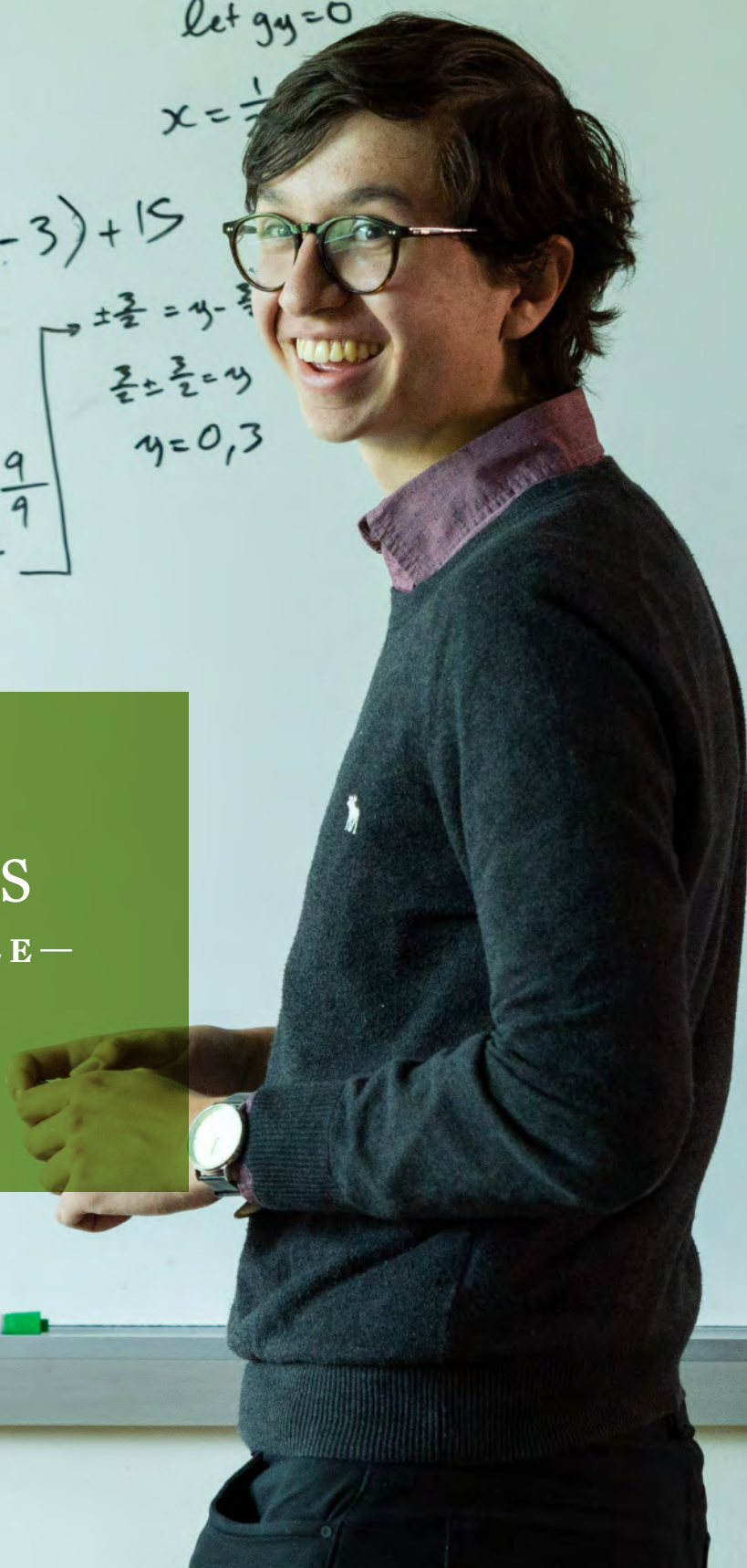
#2

Our size is among Solebury's best attributes. We want you to grow within our close-knit community.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &g(x, y) = 5x - y + 15 \\
 &g_y = -x + \frac{1}{25}y^2 - 3 \\
 &\text{let } g_x = 0 \quad \text{let } g_y = 0 \\
 &y = 5x + 15 \quad x = \frac{1}{25}y^2 - 3 \\
 &y = 5\left(\frac{1}{25}y^2 - 3\right) + 15 \\
 &= \frac{1}{5}y^2 \\
 &0 = y^2 - 3y \\
 &\frac{9}{4} = y^2 - 3y + \frac{9}{4} \\
 &\frac{9}{4} = \left(y - \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 \\
 &\pm \frac{3}{2} = y - \frac{3}{2} \\
 &\frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{3}{2} = y \\
 &y = 0, 3
 \end{aligned}$$

2

ACADEMICS
RIGOROUS, FLEXIBLE—
AND DESIGNED
FOR YOU



Overview

Each Solebury student walks a unique path to graduation, supported by our talented faculty and staff. Our curriculum features incredible breadth and depth, enabling you to dive deeply into the humanities, STEM subjects, and the arts. Whether your goal is to complete a multitude of AP courses, to focus on global studies, or to grow academically and discover new passions, Solebury is up to the challenge. Our strong academic programs provide rich, customizable opportunities that challenge and reward you.

At the same time, we never lose sight of the individual, valuing the distinctive qualities each member of the community brings to our vibrant learning environment.

Our Academic Mission

Our distinctive and dynamic academic program guides students to discover and pursue their passions and inspires them to set and rise to rigorous expectations.

Advisory

As soon as you arrive at Solebury, you are assigned a faculty advisor who will serve as mentor, advocate, and guide. Advisors help you develop the skills needed to achieve your potential and become college-ready. Advisors are also a point of contact for parents.

Faculty

Solebury attracts and retains exceptional teachers, many of whom make the school a career destination. They are skilled classroom educators who are committed to the success of all students.

Solebury teachers are there for you, and they share a common approach to education. Our teachers:

- allow students to stretch themselves, discover new intellectual talents and passions, pursue these at the highest level, and take on challenges that they otherwise might not.
- give students the confidence to take intellectual and creative risks, speak up, share ideas, and participate actively in class.
- make themselves available to students, whether it's to go over material for a test, brainstorm ideas for a paper, edit a college application essay, or offer guidance on the ups and downs of teenage life.

NEED TO KNOW

#3

Solebury's proven academics work equally well for high-flying students and those who are still unlocking their potential. We aspire to bring out the best in each individual student.

NEED TO KNOW

#4

Solebury administrators didn't just start in the classroom. They're still there. Many administrators, including Head of School Patricia C. A. Sasser, teach at least one class every year.

Academic Requirements

NEED TO KNOW

#5

Solebury's schedule is designed to combat teen sleep deprivation, reduce stress, and set up our students for academic success. Our classes don't start before 8:30am. The result? Happier, well-rested students who arrive at school ready to face the day.

Schedule

As recommended by the American Association of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the Centers for Disease Control, classes begin at 8:30 a.m. four days a week and at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays. You will have a better chance of getting a full night's sleep—something that is critically important for teenagers.

You never have more than three academic classes per day. Our 80-minute classes connect you to more in-depth, experiential learning. Teachers have time for in-depth discussions and debates, planned and improvised activities and explorations, as well as time to follow up and reflect within the same class period. It's an unrivaled classroom experience.

With Solebury's schedule, you can focus on fewer subjects a day, allowing the information to truly be learned and internalized. This includes never having more than three academic homework assignments due on any given day. You are able to do your best work AND get to bed at a reasonable time. In addition, our After-School Activity program offers a range of options to get exercise, connect with the community, and discover new interests.

Required Credits

A minimum of 109 credits is required for graduation:

Required

- 24- English (required each trimester)
- 18- Mathematics (through Algebra II)
- 18- World Language (generally three years of one language)
- 12- Science (Conceptual Physics and Biology)
- 12- Social Studies (US History plus one other)
- 6- Arts (two full years)
- 1- Health
- Electives to bring total credits to 109

Each full-year course equals six credits. Every student must attempt a minimum of 27 credits each year or nine each trimester. It is important to note that these are minimum requirements, and students typically challenge themselves and go as far as they possibly can in each discipline. Those wishing to attend a selective college should keep in mind that such candidates usually have taken Calculus, two or more laboratory sciences, and often a fourth year of a world language. Many students have 132 to 156 credits at graduation.

NEED TO KNOW

#6

Ask the next school you visit how long their class periods last. They are likely shorter than Solebury's unique 80-minute periods, designed to spur both structured and free-flowing exploration and discovery.

A Customizable Education

Honors and AP Classes

You will have an abundance of opportunities to challenge yourself at the very highest academic levels. Advanced Placement (AP) classes are offered in every discipline, and include Chemistry, Computer Science, two levels of Calculus, Government and Politics, English Literature and Composition, Spanish, French, and Studio Art. Solebury students consistently demonstrate levels of mastery in AP exams that enable them to receive college credit. Students can also choose from a wide array of Honors classes. Designed by our faculty, these courses provide a level of challenge similar to that of AP courses while allowing students to dive deeper into the curricula.

Electives

We offer electives in every discipline. Created in response to student interests and reflective of our faculty's wide array of intellectual pursuits, more than 100 distinct courses offer a variety of study options that rivals those at many colleges. Whether Microbiology, The Arab World, Engineering, Fighting "Fake News," Literature of the Undead, or Digital Illustration, these courses offer choices for every interest. Taken together, our core, AP, Honors, and elective classes allow Solebury students to stretch themselves, to mature intellectually, and to enter college with a firm sense of their interests and strengths.

NEED TO KNOW

#7

Solebury offers nearly 40 Advanced Placement and Honors courses, providing students the opportunity to challenge themselves and demonstrate their readiness for college in multiple ways.

Academic Concentrations

Students have the opportunity to explore their passions and focus their academic pursuits by choosing a concentration in one of four areas.

NEED TO KNOW

#8

Solebury inspires students to take action through interests in civil and human rights, exploration of global sustainable development, enriching experiences in STEM, and other academic concentration courses.

NEED TO KNOW

#9

Charting your own journey isn't just personal; it's intellectual. With more than 100 electives and our distinctive trimester system, you have more opportunities to find new passions at Solebury.

Global Education

With an emphasis on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development set by the United Nations, this concentration includes requirements designed for students to deeply engage in and reflect upon global academic courses, cultural events, service learning, travel immersion experiences, and an independent study. As students work to complete this concentration, they document all of their Global Ed experiences via an online portfolio of their creation.

Social Justice

Designed for students who wish to explore issues of equity, whether focused on economics, race, gender, the environment, or any host of justice concerns, this concentration encourages students to participate in their local and global communities through activism, volunteerism, and learning. They will then be in a position to be leaders at Solebury to educate and organize. Ultimately, students passionate about a cause will be able to deepen and expand their knowledge, and share it with the Solebury community. Students are required to take a certain number of courses to fulfill the academic requirement and are expected to participate in and lead activities. These will include school-based clubs, presentations to the school community, service rooted in social justice, and a capstone project.

STEM

Students will go beyond the classroom offerings to explore their STEM interests, choosing the path that works best for them to complete the requirements. This includes conducting independent studies, networking with STEM professionals, participating in clubs and special events, and taking a wide range of STEM classes. Working with STEM coordinators to design a variety of challenging and engaging experiences, students will then submit the activity that they completed to track their progress. We believe that STEM students should have experiences that align STEM work with other departments within Solebury to make a well-rounded student while increasing their exposure to STEM.

Arts Concentration

This concentration aims to recognize and celebrate students who delve deeply into one or more areas in Visual Art, Performing Art, or Creative Writing. Since we also value diversity in experience and breadth in studies, students will also need to complete classes related to but not specifically within their focus. For instance, a student pursuing an Arts Concentration with a focus in Acting may also be asked to complete coursework in Creative Writing or Dance. These specific courses will be determined collaboratively by the student, their advisor and the coordinator of this concentration.

Dance Conservatory Program

To become a professional dancer takes an incredible amount of discipline and dedication. Sadly, it often entails significantly sacrificing an academic and social experience. Solebury School's Dance Conservatory, in Partnership with Roxey Ballet Company, allows students to have all three experiences at once! Conservatory students will have a Pre-Professional Conservatory level dance experience (dancing 4-5 hours a day), while simultaneously engaging in the high-level academic program, a well- rounded community, and a full social experience that Solebury School offers.

The Conservatory offers:

- Rigorous, progressive technical training in a wide range of dance styles, with a strong foundation in classical ballet.
- Creative and choreographic development, nurturing individual artistic voices alongside strong technical ability.
- Professional preparation for careers in performance, choreography, teaching, and other related fields.
- Integration of technical theater skills to broaden understanding of stagecraft and enhance production knowledge.
- Professional performance experience to build your dance resume.

To apply, in addition to Solebury's admission application, students must submit a video audition and a supplementary one-page essay describing their passion for dance (details on our website).

Student Support Resources

We are inspired to create a challenging academic environment and equally committed to making sure support is there when you need it. The bedrock of this support is our teachers, who are available for extra help whenever they are not teaching, advising, or coaching. We also train and match peer tutors with students who need more structured assistance but perhaps not a formal support program.

NEED TO KNOW

#10

Solebury believes all young people benefit from being global citizens. That's why we put a special emphasis on opportunities for our students to gain international experience.

Conference Period

Time is built into the schedule four days a week for students to meet with teachers. Seeking help—or simply checking in—is part of the Solebury support.

Writing Center

The Center is a resource for anyone at any stage in the writing process. The teachers staffing the Writing Center can help students brainstorm ideas, develop a thesis statement, edit, and proofread. It's also a quiet place to write, and reservations are not required.

English Foundations

Our grade level English Foundations classes are designed specifically for students who struggle with language-based learning tasks. The classes are taught in a small group setting by an English teacher who is also a Learning Specialist, and the classes

are specifically designed to meet grade-level English curricular goals while addressing each student's individual learning needs. To build on strengths and bolster weaknesses in reading and writing, the English Foundations teacher differentiates instruction and paces assignments to provide appropriate support for developing skills and academic growth. Space is limited, and admission into the program is dependent on academic screening and noted challenges.

Bridge and Bridge Plus

The Bridge and Bridge Plus Programs help students whose success is hindered by ADD/ADHD, executive functioning challenges, or difficulty expressing ideas in writing. Students take a full schedule of classes and meet with a learning specialist every other day in small groups of up to 3 to help them stay on track, complete assignments, and develop strategies to achieve the success their intelligence merits. This program can serve as a "bridge" as students transition out of the Learning Skills Program. For some students, it is a bridge from a different academic environment to Solebury's rigorous, college-preparatory program. For others, it connects a past of good intentions but missed assignments and incomplete work to a brighter future of

confidence, competence, and pride in a job well done. To meet students' needs, we offer several levels of Bridge support: Bridge Plus, which meets nearly every day; Bridge, which meets every other day, and we also offer a trimester-by-trimester Bridge support plan for students who feel they may not need a full year of Bridge support. Space is limited and there are additional fees for these programs.

BOOST

At Solebury, we strive to support all of our learners. While many students benefit from the formal Learning Support programs, others need less intensive and/or less frequent support. For these students, we offer Boost. Between the hours of 3:00 and 3:30 (during our daily Conference period where all teachers are available to work with students), the Learning Support faculty is available for drop-in help, to provide guidance with study strategies, test-taking skills, time management, organization, prioritization, etc. Students can come as needed, or drop in regularly. There is no fee for this support, and all students are welcome!

Math Prep Program

Solebury offers formal, embedded support for students with diagnosed math learning disabilities or those who have historically struggled with math. Our Math Prep program gives this group of students a math lab in their schedule where material can be reviewed or pre-taught, or prior knowledge and skill gaps can be addressed, allowing students to find greater success during their time here.

Accommodation and Advocacy

Solebury will make whatever reasonable and appropriate accommodations it can to help students meet our challenging academic standards. However, that does not mean changing the standards themselves. The teachers in Learning Skills and Bridge advocate for all students and will help to arrange for accommodations and interventions that will best help them acquire and demonstrate the skills and knowledge taught in their classes. However, a key goal of the program is to give students the tools and the confidence to advocate for themselves, as they will need to do in college.

NEED TO KNOW

#11

Solebury carefully structures a caring learning environment that begins with small classes and frequent opportunities to find extra help—from teachers, through peer tutoring and customizable programs, or in study groups. Academic success follows when we meet students on their level, and they feel safe, supported, and respected.



3

ARTS
STRETCH YOUR CREATIVITY

Do you love the process of creating and/or performing? Solebury embraces your talents and artistic spirit by ensuring that all students engage with the arts while they are here. That's why our schedule includes a class period exclusively dedicated to the arts. Many alumni have pursued careers in the arts, and our campus is in Bucks County, renowned as a home to generations of gifted artists.

Visual Arts

Professional artists teach our wide array of visual art classes. You can take introductory classes which provide classical training in drawing, painting, ceramics, and photography, and then go on to pursue any of these disciplines at a higher level. Our most advanced students take AP Studio Art, receiving college credit while creating a portfolio for colleges.

Music

Our music program is current, innovative, unique, and comprehensive. You can take any of seven music performance classes: Chorus, Jazz Ensemble, Diversity Music Ensemble, A Cappella, Rock Band, Vocal Performance Workshop, and Solebury Elite Ensemble. Each class has several performances throughout the year.

Non-performing classes are also available, such as Scoring for Film and Video, Songwriting, and Indie Music – Reshaping the Music World. The music faculty are also working music professionals with real world experience. They bring contacts, expertise, and experiences, creating a wellspring of inventive and impactful classes. Approximately one-third of students are enrolled in the music program each trimester.

Theater and Theater Tech

Each year, Solebury students bring several productions to the stage for the larger community to enjoy. We pride ourselves on the professionalism anchored in a rigorous theater curriculum, including classes such as Shakespearean Acting, Directing for the Stage, and Intro to Theater Tech. Students showcase their talents in a fall drama, a winter musical, and a spring Shakespeare production or student-written/directed one-act play.

The theater tech program honors Solebury's philosophy of getting students to pursue their passions. The tech crew transforms our wonderful black box theater, designing and building each set from scratch. Students are trained how to run the lights and soundboards, construct the sets, and manage the stage.

Dance

We offer school-day electives such as Tap, Ballet/Hip Hop, Musical Theater Dance, Swing Dance, and Choreography. Whichever you choose, you'll have the chance to strut your stuff in performances for the community.

NEED TO KNOW

#12

We are one of the only schools in the country that offers a Life Drawing class, where advanced students can learn to draw live models.



4 ATHLETICS

15 TEAMS,
JUST WAITING FOR YOU

Ready to hit the field or the court? If you relish team sports, Solebury offers a wide range of interscholastic options geared to your abilities and goals. While Solebury is a smaller school, with all the advantage of a tight-knit community, we are equally prepared for students who compete intensely at the high school level and those who simply want to be part of a team and get some exercise.

In most sports, Solebury is a member of the Penn-Jersey League and competes annually for championships in every sport. We also play a challenging non-league schedule against the area’s other independent schools. Our boys’ basketball team plays an independent schedule including many regional tournaments against some of the top competition in the nation.

Our Athletic Center houses a 21,500-square-foot gymnasium, a multi-purpose room for wrestling and dance, a fitness center, and an outdoor six-lane track and athletic field.

NEED TO KNOW

#13

Every student who joins a team participates and flourishes, and you can aim as high as your aspirations take you. Many alumni go on to play competitively in college.

Students can be part of the following teams:

FALL

- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Girls Volleyball

WINTER

- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Winter Track
- Volleyball

SPRING

- Baseball
- Softball
- Boys and Girls Track and Field
- Girls Lacrosse
- Tennis
- Golf

In addition to team sports, Solebury offers a wide variety of noncompetitive sports and fitness-oriented activities, including rock climbing, yoga, strength training, Model UN, Dungeons and Dragons, beekeeping, Theatre, Theater Tech, Newspaper, and Gardening which help teens develop healthy lifelong habits, skills, and interests.

A close-up photograph of two young women with long dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. They are outdoors, with a blurred background of greenery and a building. The woman on the left is wearing a blue t-shirt and has her arm around the woman on the right, who is wearing a red t-shirt. A semi-transparent purple circle is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

OUR COMMUNITY

OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOU THAT ARE
UNIQUELY SOLEBURY

Leadership Opportunities

Are you a leader? We think you very well could be. Solebury offers an extraordinary selection of opportunities for students to begin honing leadership skills that inform their success in college and beyond.

Community Council

Community Council is comprised of representatives from each grade, a faculty advisor for each grade, and additional representatives from each dorm. The Council plans events throughout the year, such as dances, the annual Halloween costume contest, and the Valentine's Day flower sale. The group also carries the responsibility of being the voice for the student body, expressing their needs and concerns and, when possible, seeing that action is taken. Community Council presidents are elected by their peers and faculty members after a brief campaign each spring.

Dormitory Proctors

Proctors are student leaders who oversee daily routines in dormitories and the enforcement of residential rules and regulations. The proctor's position is a very important one, calling for a natural leader who demonstrates maturity and the ability to work well with both teachers and fellow students.

Student Activities Council

Working with our Student Activity Directors, this group helps create the vibrant selection of trips and on campus activities that foster the connections that are such an important part of the Solebury experience.

Judiciary Committee

Serious rule infractions are referred to Judiciary Committee for review. Comprised of six students and three faculty members, the committee takes disciplinary action or, when appropriate, makes recommendations to the Head of School. The student members play an integral part in every disciplinary process.

Peer Leaders

Each year, a select handful of students are hand-picked to become Peer Leaders. They receive special training on how to counsel fellow students and help new students settle in and connect to the community.

NEED TO KNOW

#14

Solebury's leadership opportunities are a proving ground for life. When our alumni look at the positions they hold in their careers and communities, they draw a line back to their Solebury experiences.

Clubs and Activities

Students make the most of their extracurricular time at Solebury, and our clubs and required activities usually top their lists of favorite pastimes and pursuits.

Clubs

Clubs offer students opportunities to discover and learn, demonstrate leadership, connect with students and faculty with common interests, and improve both Solebury and the larger community. Affinity clubs hold open meetings to address issues that affect the entire community and strive to make the world a more inclusive and accepting place. Some popular club options include the Biracial Buddies, Latinx, Diversity Club, Solebury Snow Sports, Spartanbuilders, and Solebury Service Society.

Clubs meet regularly throughout each trimester, creating their own set of priorities and often holding workshops, seminars, field trips, and more. Many of Solebury School's clubs begin as an outgrowth of common student interests. Others have a long history and their own set of traditions. You can also start your own club, as students form new clubs every year.

Activities

Solebury offers opportunities for both individual and group experiences designed to foster the development of lifelong skills and interests.

Participation in a physical activity or sport is required during at least two of the three trimesters. For those who do not enjoy team sports, a wide array of physical activities are offered, including indoor and outdoor rock climbing, fitness and weight training, and yoga. We can also work with students to structure independent activities, such as skating, swimming, and gymnastics.

For one of the three trimesters, students can choose a non-physical activity, such as theater, debate, the school's literary magazine, Model U.N., and much more.

Traditions

Long-standing traditions—some dating back to our founding in 1925—will enrich your experiences at Solebury, make student life more memorable and fun, and connect you to a proud heritage.

Arts Festival

One week each year we highlight all the arts through our annual arts festival. There are concerts during assembly, a student cabaret night, and other evening performances for the community to enjoy. Throughout the week, teachers, local artists, and even students teach special workshops. Recent topics have included origami, music videos, and graffiti art.

Coffee House

Each trimester, students and teachers share the opportunity to showcase their talents—sometimes hidden talents!—during Coffee House. In an informal atmosphere, anyone can sing, recite poetry, perform dance, or play an instrument. This fun-filled evening attracts all members of the Solebury community.

Community Day

At the start of the year, we take a day to help our students and faculty connect with one another. Starting with Convocation, this day has time for each grade to have fun together, to connect, and for the seeds of the community we value to take root.

Convocation

While the spring Commencement ceremony is about celebrating the completion of a student's time at Solebury, Convocation is about celebrating the beginning of a brand-new Solebury year. It gives us time to come together as a community, reflect upon the endeavors soon to follow, and warmly welcome the new students joining our community.

Faculty Follies

Right before Winter vacation, our faculty and staff put on a show for our students to send them off on break with a smile - maybe more likely a bout of tear inducing laughter.

NEED TO KNOW

#15

When Solebury alumni meet, one of the first questions they ask is: which house were you? Being a member of one of the four houses stays with you—as every Harry Potter fan knows!

House Competitions

Solebury's entire student body, faculty, and staff are divided up into four houses named after our founders: Erskine, Holmquist, Lathrop, and Washburn. Houses compete throughout the year for house points, with a winning house awarded at year's end.

Senior/Board of Trustees Dinner

During this special night in January, our senior class is formally welcomed into the ranks of alumni by our Board of Trustees with a traditional pinning ceremony.

Service Day

An age-old Solebury tradition, all students, faculty, and staff roll up our sleeves and participate in a day of giving back. Everyone gets to choose from a dozen causes and projects and then work either on or off campus. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the big giving heart of our school.

Soccer Under the Lights

Once a year in the fall, the lights above our fields shine bright as the girls and boys varsity soccer teams play a night game against a local rival school. It's a fun evening for the entire community, bringing alumni back to campus as well as a fair share of parents to join the whole school in the stands.

STEM Week

Held every October, Solebury's math and science departments host a special week of learning to engage all of our students in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and math—and perhaps to go one step further in inspiring a future career. The week culminates in a fun school-wide activity that ties STEM to everyday life.

The Solebury School Seal

The four symbols that make up the school seal are imbued with special meaning.

The acorn and oak leaf represent the idea that small things can have big impacts, that something with the strength to last for years—or even for decades—often has small beginnings. These massive oak trees got their start from an acorn, just as this school grew from a simple idea and just a handful of students and teachers over 90 years ago. Becoming fluent in a foreign language can begin with studying vocabulary for a few minutes a day. Self-confidence can grow when we take the small step to try something new, like an art class or club. A person's day—and by extension their life—can be changed with a small gesture. When we take small and positive actions, and when we have patience and perseverance, we can create tremendous growth for our communities and for ourselves.

The plow represents the idea of stewardship and cultivation. If we want something to grow and flourish, we must give it our care and energy—a school, a family, a government, a piece of land, or a friendship. Each of us has the awesome responsibility to nurture the things around us that allow our lives to be fulfilling. We each must be the cultivators, the intelligent farmers, of our communities and of our own lives.

The beaver represents the idea that it is often necessary to work hard and to push ourselves to accomplish things even when they are challenging. We grow as people, we move institutions forward, and we help our society improve when we are willing to confront head on what first strikes us as difficult or even intractable.

Our highest goal in living and learning is not wealth or power or rising above others. Our highest goal is wisdom. The owl represents our aspiration for wisdom. Gaining wisdom is not simply a matter of accumulating knowledge. We strive to learn how we can use and apply knowledge to improve the quality of our lives and the health of our communities, beginning right here with our Solebury community.

NEED TO KNOW

#16

Many schools with long histories have a school seal. Few have one imbued with a level of meaning and interpretation equal to Solebury.





COLLEGE PREP

PLAN WELL
FOR YOUR FUTURE

An important outcome of your Solebury education is being accepted to a college of your choice. The process of preparing and applying for college can also be overwhelming. This is why Solebury focuses intently on the process of preparing for testing and college applications practically from the day you arrive on campus.

As with all things Solebury, our college counseling process is highly personalized. We get to know your strengths and emerging passions, and encourage you to expand your academic and extracurricular interests to strengthen your college resume. At the same time, our full-time college counselor introduces you to colleges that may be a good fit—sometimes right here on campus, as a large number of colleges and universities come to speak with our students.

Another key question is: which test should I take, the SAT or the ACT? We work in partnership with Kaplan Test Prep to expose you to both tests so we can find which one suits you best, especially if the colleges on your list will accept either one.

NEED TO KNOW

#17

Solebury's partnership with Kaplan Test Prep, a national leader, has resulted in designing our own SAT prep course. It is one more way we demystify and individualize the college application process, and work with parents as well as students.

How it works:

9TH GRADE:

- Incoming freshmen and their families may participate in a webinar that helps students get off on the right foot academically.
- Families/students are invited to meet and plan their 9th grade schedules and to look ahead to the next four years.
- Students meet with their advisors to develop the skills necessary to create a strong foundation for high school and college success.

10TH GRADE:

- The Director of Studies and Associate Head of School meet with each student for a “fireside chat” to learn more about their goals and help them plan out the next two years academically.
- Sophomores take the PSAT in the fall.
- The Director of College Counseling meets with the class to advise them on building on their academic and extracurricular foundation and what to expect as a junior.
- Students are invited to take a practice SAT/ACT hybrid test.

11TH GRADE:

- Students are invited to meet with the dozens of college representatives who visit Solebury each fall.
- They fill out a college questionnaire and attend mandatory college classes and a college fair.
- Each spring, the Director of College Counseling meets with juniors to review their academics, test prep, and extracurriculars. They discuss college aspirations and letters of recommendations, and map out a plan for the summer.
- Juniors will again take the PSAT and be invited to participate in the practice SAT/ACT hybrid test and to take our own SAT prep course.
- The Director of College Counseling also registers students for AP exams and helps students plan for other standardized tests, such as SAT subject tests.

12TH GRADE:

- “Personal Essay Writing” is offered as a class in the fall to guide seniors in crafting their college application essay.
- The Director of College Counseling will write personalized recommendations for each student and each college.
- The Director will also provide individual feedback for students on their applications/essays and will meet with seniors to help them fine tune their college list.
- We send transcripts/recommendations, make advocacy phone calls, and offer guidance to students as they make their ultimate college choice.

Selected College Acceptances (2022-2026)

- American University
- American University of Paris
- Amherst College
- Arcadia University
- Babson College
- Bard College
- Bates College
- Bennington College
- Bentley University
- Berklee College of Music
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Chapman University
- College of Charleston
- College of the Holy Cross
- College of William and Mary
- Columbia University
- Connecticut College
- Cornell University
- Culinary Institute of America
- Dartmouth College
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Duke University
- Elon University
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Georgetown University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gettysburg College
- Goucher College
- Grinnell College
- Hamilton College
- Haverford College
- Hobart and William Smith College
- Howard University
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- Ithaca College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kenyon College
- Lafayette College
- Lawrence University
- Lehigh University
- Marist University
- Michigan State University
- Morehouse College
- Mount Holyoke College
- Muhlenberg College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pepperdine University
- Pitzer College
- Pomona College
- Pratt Institute
- Purdue University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rice University
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Royal Academy of Music
- Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- School of Visual Arts
- Skidmore College
- Smith College
- Spelman College
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- The College of New Jersey
- The George Washington University
- The New School - All Divisions
- Trinity College
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- Union College
- University of California, Multiple Campuses
- University of Chicago
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Richmond
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Ursinus College
- Vassar College
- Villanova University
- Virginia Tech
- Washington College
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- West Chester University
- Wheaton College MA
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

A photograph of two young women in a dorm room. One woman with curly hair and glasses is sitting on a bed, wearing a dark blue hoodie with 'SOLEBURY' on it. The other woman with long dark hair and glasses is sitting on a wooden chair, wearing a yellow sweater and ripped jeans. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a desk with a lamp, a window with white flowers outside, and a bulletin board with various papers. A smartphone is on the bed in the foreground.

LIVING AT SOLEBURY

YOUR HOME AWAY
FROM HOME

Each dorm becomes your second home, complete with its own “family.” Your dorm parents work hard to build a sense of community and to make you and your dormmates feel as safe, cared for, and happy as you would at home. The faculty members who live in the dorms, often with their own spouses and children, act as advisor, teacher, and friend—all rolled into one. They help with homework, challenge you to a foosball game, or chat about life over a snack.

In the Heart of It All

Solebury’s idyllic and ideal location in Bucks County, PA, enables you and your fellow students to visit many of the attractions of the northeast while enjoying the quiet, safety, and open space of a 140-acre rural campus. We’re an hour from Philadelphia and the New Jersey beaches and 75 minutes from New York City and the Pocono Mountains. Our immediate area boasts wonderful outdoor activity options with malls and multiplexes just a short ride away in the school van.

Dorm Life

You will thrive in the structure that boarding life provides. Nightly study halls, activities, and lights out—to ensure a good night’s sleep—all contribute to an environment where students can develop the discipline and habits that lead to long term success. The most significant part of the boarding experience for students is the lifelong friendships they form with one another. Alumni cherish memories of the time they shared, maturing and growing up together with friends.

Solebury has four dormitories. Each features a full kitchen, WiFi internet access, laundry facilities, and plenty of space for boarders to work and to enjoy their free time. More than half of the faculty live on campus. All of the faculty, but especially the dorm parents, are there for students at every turn—to offer extra help with that history paper, toss a baseball outside, spend an afternoon baking cookies, or drive a van of kids to the movies, local apple orchard, or even to New York City for the day.

Dining

When Solebury was founded, students and teachers had their meals together. They still eat together to this day. Tables are shared by boarding and day students, faculty, and their families in the Herbert S. Boyd Dining Hall. Staffed by four talented chefs, the dining hall offers a full, nutritious breakfast every weekday—eggs made to order, pancakes, oatmeal—and a larger brunch on weekends. Lunches and dinners include homemade soups, a full salad bar, and a variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. Fruit, snacks, and hot and cold drinks are available throughout the day. If there’s something students would like to see on the menu, they can simply ask the chefs.

NEED TO KNOW

#18

Three communal meals a day was once a given of boarding school life. Not anymore. But at Solebury, we continue this tradition because of the strong sense of community it helps promote within the school. Day students are welcome to join boarders for breakfast and dinner, in addition to lunch.

Weekends

Weekends are a time for boarding and day students to form connections with one another and with the faculty, to experience new things and to create lasting memories. There's an endless supply of fun to be had with something offered for everyone! Whether it's an activity on campus, a trip to nearby New York City or Philadelphia, hikes, evening bonfires, special House Competitions, one of our many traditions, a big game for one of our teams, or study groups focused on a specific class, there will always be something to do and people to do it with!

Boarders Bonding

Every Wednesday night between dinner and study hall, all boarders have a mandatory program called Boarders Bonding (B²). Students bond with their dormmates and the entire boarding community through games, discussions, and events.

Dress Code

Within the close-knit fabric of our community, you have the freedom to express yourself in many ways. As with any community, there is an inherent responsibility within this right of expression to be conscious and respectful of others. While Solebury does not have a dress code, we do expect everyone to be responsible regarding their selection of clothing at school, during school functions, and in the dining hall for meals.

Health

Day and night, weeknights and weekends, our nursing staff is here to care for our students. You'll have additional support from our School Counselors and Athletic Trainer so you can feel your best and thrive academically, socially, and extracurricularly.





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APPLYING TO
SOLEBURY

How to Apply

We make every effort to ensure that the admission process is as easy as possible. What we need to do is actually rather simple—get to know one another and decide if we’re a good fit. Please start by learning about us. Explore our website. Come to our gorgeous campus, talk to teachers, ask questions, and see for yourself what sets Solebury apart. It’s also a great way for us to get to know you.

Visiting our campus is the best way to begin understanding why Solebury School is such a special place. Call us at 215.862.5261 or email us at admissions@solebury.org, and we’ll be happy to schedule a day for you to visit classes, shadow a student, and have your admissions interview. If you live far away, we can arrange a Skype, Google Hangout, or phone interview.

All applicants are required to apply using SSAT’s Standard Application Online (SAO) by first creating an online account at www.ssat.org. Solebury School’s code number is 7390. You will be able to self track all admission documents and view the status of your application.

Students applying to Solebury School are also welcome to use The Association of Boarding School (TABS) Common Application.

For even more information on the application process, please visit www.solebury.org/apply.

NEED TO KNOW

#19

We believe getting to know one another is essential to the application process—and we’re proud of our classes. That’s why we emphasize the opportunity to shadow a student and attend classes. It’s a level of access uncommon at some other schools—but just another reflection of who we are at Solebury.

Application Deadlines

All application materials should be submitted to Solebury School by January 15 for day students and February 1 for boarding students. You will be notified of our admission decision the week of March 10.

After March 10, applications and decisions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, based on availability.

Merit Scholarship

All students applying for 9th or 10th grade are eligible for a Merit Scholarship if they apply by the deadlines for day and boarding students indicated above.

Solebury’s admissions process is test optional. We view these tests as one data point in understanding who a student is, and we feel that in some cases, these tests neither give an accurate understanding of who a student is nor an accurate prediction of who they will be here.

Factors Influencing Admission Decisions

We carefully review your Solebury School application materials so we have the most complete picture of your qualifications. Decisions are based on your potential for success at Solebury School academically, artistically, athletically, as well as your potential contributions to the school community.

Admission to Solebury School is open to all qualified candidates without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

Key Dates

JANUARY 15:

General application deadline for day students

FEBRUARY 1:

General application deadline for boarding students

Financial Aid application deadline

OPEN HOUSES

We have an in-person October Open House every year where you can hear from students and faculty about various programs and get a firsthand sense of all aspects of life at Solebury. For those who may not be able to come to campus, you can watch a Virtual Open House and recordings of Virtual Information Sessions on our “Virtual Admissions Center”. Both the date of the Open House and the Virtual Admissions Center can be found in the Admissions section of our website.

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