

SOLEBURY.EDU

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



University of St. Andrews

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August Advice *Common App is Open!*

August is here, bringing beach days, road trips, and an updated Common Application! The Common App opened on August 1. While *most early deadlines are not until November*, now is a great time to start your applications. You'll return to Solebury that much more prepared! Here is a list of the top 5 things you can do now to save yourself time this fall.

- 1) Visit colleges.** Yes, campus will be quieter, but the admission office is open and excited to take you on tour and share what makes their school unique. Setting foot on a campus will help you start to narrow down your list and demonstrate interest in a school. Unable to visit? Sign up for a virtual session!
- 2) Start filling out applications.** Common App is ready for you! It can be helpful to start a Google Doc, make a tab for each college, and list any required writing. You can also find a helpful FAQ sheet [here](#).
- 3) Write your essays.** Writing and crafting an essay takes time. Starting early allows you that time to brainstorm and really think about what you want to say to colleges. And speaking of essays, we have some exciting news! **Lauren Eckstein is bringing her expertise to the college counseling office this year.** She plans to host evening hours and workshop times during the fall to support you with your activities list, supplemental essays, and the personal statement.
- 4) Register for ACT or SAT.** Seats are filling up for fall SAT and ACT dates, so you'll want to get registered early. The process takes 10-15 minutes, and you'll enter your zip code to find the closest testing location. Have a headshot on file to upload when you register. Do you think you may qualify for a fee waiver? Reach out to Erin for a code.

5) **Spend time in Scoir.** Building a strong college list, with a balance of foundation, target and reach schools, is one of the most important steps in the process. Do your research, visit campuses (or attend virtual sessions), and don't add a school unless you are certain that they have programs and offerings you are excited about.

Face-to-Face *College Visits*

From Vanderbilt to Virginia Tech, Bard to Bryn Mawr, and Elon to UVM, there are over 30 colleges who have already scheduled their fall visits to Solebury! You can register for these now, in Scoir. Visiting with college reps can be SUCH a benefit to your application process, and **we encourage you to sign up for at least 4 visits**. Is there a college that you've never heard of? All the more reason to sit in and learn more! *Do you have a school you'd love to have visit us? Let me know and I'll reach out to them!*

Step 1: How to Sign Up for Meetings with Colleges

1. Check on the College Visits page of SCOIR. Click on any of the Upcoming Visits on the right side of the page to view the complete list. We will update this list frequently and send weekly college visit reminders.
2. Sign up for college visits on SCOIR a minimum of three days before the scheduled visit. To do so, go to the College Visits Page, then click "Count Me In" for any college visits you wish to attend.
3. It is up to the discretion of the teacher to permit you to miss class. If you do not obtain permission, we will support the decision of the teacher.
4. If we feel that you are taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with college representatives in an effort to miss class, we will ask you to return to class.
5. For virtual visits, we will send the link for the meeting to all registered students the morning of the visit, so be sure to check your e-mail to be able to meet with the admissions representative.

Step 2: What To Do At College Meetings

College visits allow a representative to gain a feel for the type of student a high school produces. They also allow you to make an impression on the representative. The person you meet in the visit may be the first person reading your application! With so many schools no longer offering interviews, these visits become a sort of impromptu interview and can make such a difference in your application. Help these college representatives leave with a favorable impression of you and Solebury School by:

- Arriving promptly.
- Silencing your phone and putting it away for the duration of the meeting.
- Introducing yourself.
- Giving the representative your full attention. It can help to take notes.
- Asking thoughtful questions. (A list lives in my office. 😊)
- Thanking the representative.

After the visit, return promptly to your next class. Failure to do so may result in the revoking of the privilege to meet with college representatives visiting Solebury.

We look forward to a successful season of visits with college representatives!

*Upcoming Test Dates**

ACT | September 19

Registration closes August 14. Later test dates include October 17 and December 12. Register [here](#).

SAT | August 22

Registration closes August 7 for the August 22 SAT. Future SAT test dates include September 12 and October 3. Register [here](#).

*Solebury does not register students for these tests.

Test Optional?

Over 2000 colleges have committed to remain test optional for the class of 2026. And they have assured us that test optional truly means that you will not be at a disadvantage if you do not test or do not submit your scores.

You can see the full list of test optional colleges [here](#).



Important Dates

August 7 – Registration
deadline for August 22 SAT

August 28 – Registration
deadline for September 12
SAT

October 1, 6:30-8pm –
**PACAC Regional College
Fair**, Bucks County
Community College

October 22, 7pm– Paying for
College, Virtual Webinar

November 10, 7pm– Junior
College Night, Virtual

Recommendation Letters

Who Knows You Best?

While many of you have already asked 1-2 teachers to write you a **letter of recommendation**, summer is a great time to make sure you've reached out and provided your teachers with as much information as you can. A few reminders:

1. If you are using the Common App, you will need to put in the teachers' names and subjects they teach under College "Recommenders and FERPA". Please **DO NOT** put in their e-mail addresses, as it causes complications with submission and matching of documents. We send recommendation letters through Scoir.
2. Your recommendation letters should come from high school teachers, preferably from 10th grade and beyond. *If you'd like to ask someone outside of Solebury, this teacher can email their letter to me and I will upload it into Scoir.*
3. Provide all teachers with all relevant information regarding your experience in class/extracurricular activities, as requested. Click [here](#) for a brag sheet, which you can personalize, complete, and share with your teachers.

All recommendations will be sent by the college counseling office directly to the college/university to which you are applying. Most will be sent electronically through Scoir, but those that must be mailed will still be printed and sent through the college guidance office.

Lauren or I will be writing a **counselor recommendation** for you, and have started the process of crafting individualized letters. Please do not put down our e-mail addresses when you include your counselor information, as we send all materials through Scoir. You can, however, list Lauren or I as advisors in the Common App.

We do not show counselor recommendations to any students or parents as there is an expectation of confidentiality between the counseling office and the admissions office.

Final Thoughts

You're Seniors!

There's just over a month between now and your first day of senior year. This is an exciting time, and you may find yourself pulled in any number of directions. Challenging courses sit in front of you, senior year milestones lie up ahead, and college is on the horizon. You've done amazing things to get to this point, so try to soak up every little moment!

Over the next few months, please pay attention to your application deadlines, ask for help when you're feeling stressed, and remember that you already have what it takes to succeed! We can't wait to welcome you back to campus in September.

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[Solebury College Counseling Web Page](#)

CEEB/ACT Code: 392955

Our [handbook!](#)

