

DE COLLEGIO

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WELCOME TO SENIOR YEAR

I'm sure you thought that this year would never come. You're the ruler of the roost, ready to slide by and into college, right? Wrong!

It is a common misconception that senior year grades don't count toward admissions, 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, and often require the second trimester, too.

So you're probably thinking that, once you get accepted, you're home free. Wrong again! 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."

So all you need to do is pass senior year? Strike three, you're out. Literally. If a college sees your grades slip that much, they reserve the right to rescind your acceptance. Keep in mind that "successful completion" is a subjective term, and different colleges will define it differently. When I worked in admissions, I twice had to call students in July after senior year to inform them that their acceptance had been rescinded because of a poor performance in senior year. I have a letter from NYU for a student who was placed on academic probation for similar reasons and have had two other colleges contact me in recent years to talk about students whose grades slipped in the spring.

With that said, I 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. Best of luck!

WELCOME TO SOLEBURY

I would like to take a moment to welcome our new seniors to Solebury. We have three who are brand new (Johana Karbanova, Marin Krob and Jessie Wu) and two who are back after a time away (Sofia Iriarte Alvarez and Emma Riley). I am pleased that you are now part of our wonderful community. I look forward to working closely with you throughout the process.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

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 is enough to scare off many potential students.

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 (total cost – financial aid) for each college that you should compare to determine which is most affordable.

I am in discussions with Joan Hock from Delaware Valley University to return to

Solebury one evening this fall to give an overview of financial aid: what you need to do to be considered, answers to frequently asked questions, different types of aid available and more. I have also begun conversations with a college funding specialist to present on taxes, savings and college costs.

I will let you know once we have a firm date and time nailed down, hopefully in October or early November.

GETTING IT "WRITE"

For those of you who met with me in the spring and/or over the summer, I have offered to look over your essay and provide feedback. Very few of you have taken advantage of this opportunity to improve the style and presentation in your essay. While I will look over ALL essays that come across my desk before sending them to college, once the application crunch begins in October I may not be able to provide more than just basic grammatical feedback. So take advantage of my 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.

When I worked in admissions, I read over 2000 essays and only remember 4 of them. I can provide feedback on how to make your essay a successful and memorable one, but you need to step forward and ask.

In the past, I have also had admissions officers present their thoughts on the essay in Lauren's Person Essay Writing class, and hope to do the same this year.

DEADLINES, DEADLINES, DEADLINES

It's hard to believe that in your first week back we're already talking about deadlines. But it's true. Mark your calendar with these important upcoming dates:

Sept. 7: Registration Deadline for October 6 SAT. Transportation for boarding students will be available to Central Bucks East (Doylestown, PA) only.

Sept. 28: Registration Deadline for October 27 ACT. Transportation for boarding students will be available to George School (Newtown, PA) only.

Oct. 5: Registration Deadline for November 3 SAT. Transportation for boarding students will be available to Central Bucks East (Doylestown, PA) only.

Oct. 5: Deadline to request transcripts for college applications with a November 1 through November 20 due date

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. To request your transcript to go to a college, log on to Naviance, go to the "Colleges I'm Applying To" page and click on "Request Transcripts."

TESTING 1,2,3

To re-iterate from a previous newsletter, standardized testing is one of many criteria used in college admission decisions. It is important, but not the MOST important (strong grades in a strong curriculum is #1). I encourage seniors to take the SAT and/or ACT again in senior year, as colleges will take your highest scores into consideration.

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. My 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.

Don't forget, too, that you cannot "walk-in" the morning of the SAT for standby registration; you must have registered in advance.

Solebury will provide transportation for boarding students ONLY to the school indicated. If you register at another site, you MUST provide your own transportation.

Sept. 8: ACT test. Transportation is to COUNCIL ROCK NORTH HIGH SCHOOL ONLY. The van will leave from Solebury at 7:10 a.m.

Oct. 6: SAT test. Transportation is to CENTRAL BUCKS HIGH SCHOOL EAST ONLY. The van will leave from Solebury at 7:15 a.m.

Any boarding student wishing to use school transportation must sign up through Naviance at least 8 days before the exam (i.e. by the Friday of the week before the exam). However, for the September ACT that is before school starts, so the *deadline for transportation to this test is September 6 (first day of classes)*.

BE PREPARED!

We still have room for more students for our content-based Test Prep course this fall, so if you are looking for test prep and didn't sign up for our course, please contact Hanna or Britta right away. While the emphasis is on the SAT, the content will be relevant to most of the ACT as well.

MEET THE STUDENTS

Over the course of the last few months the returning students have had several reminders that you must meet with me for your guidance interview. It is important to set up a follow-up meeting in the first month of school so that we can know where you are in the process (what progress you have made and what you still need to do) and better help you move forward.

I cannot stress enough the importance of meeting with me. Not only does this prepare you for the college interview and allow you to ask questions, it also helps me to prepare your recommendation and provide you with the proper college guidance. To supplement this, I am asking you to fill out a short questionnaire to update me on your college search.

To arrange for a meeting, stop by my office, send me an e-mail or call. My contact information is below and in every e-mail I send.

COLLEGE VISITS

We have 73 colleges and rising currently scheduled to visit Solebury this fall. Because of the schedule, visits will not be tied to the beginning and end of periods, so you may miss part of 1-2 classes but you will not be missing a full class.

The following colleges are currently scheduled to visit through the first week of October:

St Joseph's University Academy of Food Marketing (PA): Tue., Sep. 11, 11:15
Vassar College (NY): Wed., Sep. 12, 10:45
Skidmore College (NY): Wed., Sep. 12, 12:30
University of Lynchburg (VA): Wed., Sep. 12, 1:30
George Washington University (DC): Thu., Sep. 13, 9:30
Meredith College (NC): Thu., Sep. 13, 1:00
University of Arizona: Mon., Sep. 17, 10:45

Bryn Athyn College (PA): Wed., Sep. 19, 9:00
Sarah Lawrence College (NY): Wed., Sep. 19, 9:45
Villanova University (PA): Wed., Sep. 19, 10:30
Hollins University (VA): Wed., Sep. 19, 11:15
Dickinson College (PA): Wed., Sep. 19, 2:15
Clark University (MA): Thu., Sep. 20, 10:00
Union College (NY): Fri., Sep. 21, 9:15
Moravian College (PA): Fri., Sep. 21, 10:15
University of Pennsylvania: Fri., Sep. 21, 11:00
Oberlin College (OH): Fri., Sep. 21, 1:00
Penn State University: Mon., Sep. 24, 8:30
St Joseph's University (PA): Mon., Sep. 24, 10:45
Ohio Wesleyan University: Mon., Sep. 24, 11:00
Savannah College of Art & Design (GA): Mon., Sep. 24, 12:15
Monmouth University (NJ): Mon., Sep. 24, 1:00
Bard College (NY): Tue., Sep. 25, 9:30
Bentley University (MA): Wed., Sep. 26, 9:00
The New School (all divisions) (NY): Wed., Sep. 26, 10:00
Drew University (NJ): Wed., Sep. 26, 10:45
Franklin & Marshall College (PA): Thu., Sep. 27, 11:00
Case Western Reserve University (OH): Mon., Oct. 1, 11:30
Green Mountain College (VT): Tue., Oct. 2, 9:15
Drexel University (PA): Tue., Oct. 2, 1:45
Randolph College (VA): Wed., Oct. 3, 9:00
Pepperdine University (CA): Wed., Oct. 3, 2:00
Wheaton College (MA): Thu., Oct. 4, 8:30
Juniata College (PA): Thu., Oct. 4, 9:15
Goucher College (MD): Thu., Oct. 4, 11:30
St. John's College (MD & NM): Thu., Oct. 4, 2:00
Immaculata University (PA): Thu., Oct. 4, 2:45
Washington College (MD): Fri., Oct. 5, 8:30
University of Pittsburgh (PA): Fri., Oct. 5, 9:15

University of the Sciences (PA): Fri., Oct. 5, 10:30
Wagner College (NY): Fri., Oct. 5, 11:15
McDaniel College (MD): Fri., Oct. 5, 1:15

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

In the August newsletter that I e-mailed to you and is on our web site, there is a list of guidelines for college visits. Please follow these guidelines if you wish to meet with a college representative. Visits will be in the Carriage House first floor conference room unless otherwise posted. Also, all scheduled college visits will be posted on Naviance and in the dining hall.

COLLEGE MEETINGS OFF-CAMPUS

The following is a list of colleges that have contacted Solebury about information sessions they will hold within approximately a one-hour drive of Solebury:

Boston University

Sun. Sept. 23, 4:00
Penn Charter School
3000 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA

University of Lynchburg

Thu., Sep. 20, 7:00
The Radnor Hotel
591 West Lancaster Avenue
Wayne, PA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sun., Sept. 16, 2:00
Friends Central School
1101 City Avenue
Wynnewood, PA

Duke University

Sun. Sept. 19, 2:00

Burlington County Library

5 Pioneer Blvd

Westampton, NJ

Also Mon., Oct. 1, 7:30

Millburn Free Public Library

200 Glen Ave

Millburn, NJ

University of Pennsylvania

Mon., Sept. 17, 7:00

Newark Academy

91 S Orange Ave

Livingston, NJ

"8 of the Best" Colleges (Claremont-McKenna, Colorado College, Connecticut College, Grinnell, Haverford, Kenyon, Macalester, Sarah Lawrence)

Thu., Sept. 13, 7:00

Philadelphia Marriott West

111 Crawford Ave

West Conshohocken, PA

These college meetings will give you a chance to connect with college representatives and learn more about the schools, particularly if a meeting with them at Solebury was not possible.

ALL'S FAIR...

A good way to speak with college representatives is to attend college fairs, where a large number (usually 100-200) will recruit together.

In October there will be two large regional fairs (at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA on 10/4 and at North Penn High School in Lansdale, PA, on 10/11).

There is also the second largest college fair in the United States at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia (Sun. Oct. 14, 11-3). Since this is during our fall

break, we will not be providing a ride but feel free to go on your own.

OUT AND ABOUT

There will be some days in the coming weeks where I will be out of the office. I anticipate having full access to e-mail when I am out of the office so please feel free to e-mail me when I'm out of the office.

On September 27 I plan to visit Westminster College in Utah as part of the annual conference of the National Association for College Admission Counseling September 27-29 in Salt Lake City. I may go to counselor programs hosted by colleges, sometime in the next two months as well.

Through my travel, I hope to continue to discuss the strengths of Solebury and our seniors at college fairs, events and college campuses. In so doing, I hope to be able to better serve the Solebury community.

THE LAST WORD

You are now beginning the home stretch of your high school journey. Keep your focus and your energy so that you can finish strong. I look forward to a great year!!!

Tim Gallen



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