

South Hunterdon Middle/High School

Counselors' Corner

August 2022



We are excited to announce our new Middle School and High School Counseling Department

Mrs. Joanne Fenimore / Middle School Counselor (Grades 7th and 8th)



In September 2022, Mrs. Joanne Fenimore will be entering her eighteenth school year as a counselor at South Hunterdon.

Mrs. Fenimore earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from The College of New Jersey, having started at South Hunterdon in September 2005. She loves helping the students in the middle grades, and her caseload in the 2022-2023 school year will encompass all of the students in grades 7 and 8. In addition to meeting with students individually and in small groups for brief solution-focused counseling and within the classroom for Naviance and socioemotional learning lessons, Mrs. Fenimore also serves as

the school testing coordinator for State and College Board standardized assessments, the school Section 504 coordinator, and as a coordinator of our Intervention and Referral Services teams. Always excited to see the counseling department evolve in positive new directions, she is excited to work with Mr. Bill, Mrs. Isabella-Murin, and Mr. Pedersen in the coming school year and is looking forward to delivering the best comprehensive services to our students and parents.

*Mr. Bay Pedersen High School Counselor, College and Career Readiness
Advisor Grades 9-12 (Students with Last Name M-Z)*



Mr. Bay Pedersen enters his second year on the district's counseling team. After his 22 years of classroom teaching in the English department here at South, Mr. Pedersen has transitioned to the counselor's office to continue his work for the district. He earned his degree in School and Mental Health Counseling from the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania in 2020. In his role as High School Counselor, Mr. Pedersen will provide career and college planning services to students in the high school as well as support student's academic, emotional and mental well-being. Mr. Pedersen will be meeting with students individually, conducting classroom lessons, facilitating small groups and collaborating with community organizations to further the excellent work already being done on a daily basis.

*Mrs. Carly Isabella-Murin High School Counselor, College and Career
Readiness Advisor Grades 9-12 (Students with Last Name A-L)*



Mrs. Carly Isabella-Murin enters her seventh year as part of the South Hunterdon Regional School District. She began her career as the elementary school counselor for Lambertville Public School and now enters her second year here at the High School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Masters of Education in School Counseling from Monmouth University. She currently is the president of Hunterdon County School Counselors Association, which allows her to collaborate with other counselors throughout the county and create connections with local colleges. Mrs. Isabella-Murin looks forward to working with students, families and staff to help develop an academic and career plan reflecting their interests, abilities and goals.

Mr. Tom Bill Student Assistant Counselor



After being employed for over 25 years as the counselor for the alternative and special education programs at the Hunterdon Educational Service Commission, as well as working part time in the Guidance office at South since 2011, Mr. Tom Bill begins his 5th full time year at South Hunterdon this September as the on site SAC (Student Assistance Counselor) for all students in grades 7-12. Mr. Bill graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and earned his SAC Certification from Jersey City State College. Outside of South, Mr. Bill has been the Defensive Coordinator for the Varsity Football Team and the Offensive Coordinator for the Varsity Boys Lacrosse Team at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, NJ since 1995. He also serves as the youth sports liaison for the Hunterdon County athletic community. Mr. Bill is excited about this year's new Counseling Department Team and is tirelessly working towards always doing the next right thing.

The FAFSA

[FAFSA Information](#) (online information)

[FAFSA Information](#) (paper copy)

Do you need help? Upcoming FAFSA Information Date to be announced for mid October

[CSS Profile Information](#)

***Note, not all institutes require the CSS so be sure to inquire with the individual college/university Office of Financial Aid**

Important Upcoming Test Dates:

PSAT- The PSAT will be offered to all 10th and 11th grade students in school on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. There is nothing students or parents need to do to register. Scores are usually made available to our counseling department and to students in mid-December. It is, quite literally, a practice SAT exam, which is a great opportunity for our sophomores and juniors to experience a college admissions testing environment without the high-stakes pressure of sitting for the SAT.

ASVAB- This test is for any student in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who may be interested in joining the military after graduation. The release of these scores are solely up to the student, so taking the test

does not mean they are committing to anything. Students interested in taking the test need to email Mr. Pedersen to set up a test date at the high school.

SAT- The SAT will be offered at South on two Saturdays during the 2022-2023 school year:

Saturday, October 1, 2022 (registration deadline is September 2, 2022)

Saturday, March 11, 2023 (registration deadline is February 10, 2023)

All SAT testing begins at South promptly at 8:00 A.M. Students are encouraged to arrive no later than 7:45 A.M. on testing day to ensure they have time to check in. Students should bring their photo ID, SAT admission ticket, plenty of No.2 pencils (please note that mechanical pencils are not permitted), and a calculator. Students are encouraged not to bring their cell phones into the testing center as they will have to turn them in at check in.

AP Exams- AP exams will take place between May 1, 2023 and May 11, 2023 this year. The cost is \$97 per exam this year. This year, we will be offering AP testing in 10 subjects to those students who are enrolled in an AP course at South, now including AP Environmental Science, which is a new addition to South's AP course offering roster!

AP English Language and Composition (11th grade)

AP English Literature and Composition (12th grade)

AP United States History

AP French Language and Culture

AP Spanish Language and Culture

AP Calculus AB

AP Statistics

AP Chemistry

AP 2-D Art and Design

AP Environmental Science

Information about registering and paying for AP exams will be forthcoming from Mrs. Fenimore to our AP students and their parents in September.

Upcoming College Fair (Wednesday, October 19, 2022)

This year we will take advantage of shifts in the recruitment process and will be hosting a number of smaller college fairs both in-person and online. Be sure to visit Naviance often to check on upcoming virtual events and if there is a specific college that you would like to talk to, please request a Rep Visit through Mr. Pedersen.

College Admissions Startup

The college application process has to start somewhere, so let's make it from a place of positivity.

[THESE 5 THINGS](#) can help to form the perfect mantra for tackling even the longest todo lists.

Remember, whatever your path, we are here to help you map it out.

The Common Application/Application Essay Help 8/16/2022

The Common Application opened on August 1. Because using the Common Application streamlines the application process, ALL high school seniors should open and complete the account setup.

Because this can be a bit cumbersome to start, Mr. Pedersen has set up a room at South with 20

chromebooks (you can always bring your own device if you would rather) so that he can help walk you

through the process. Mr. Pedersen will be available from 12 noon am to 4 pm Wednesday (8/17/22) and would love to see as many Senior students as possible during the course of the day.

Grade Point Average (GPA)/Transcript Updates

During this summer, we have updated all student transcripts and reposted them to the parent portal. You may notice a slight change to your child's GPA as student courses reflect a change that was implemented at the state level for visual and performing arts courses carrying the same academic value as college level courses. In making this change, our district has opted to also adjust the academic value (to college level) of both practical art courses as well as electives. Should you have any questions regarding your child's transcripts and/or GPA, please be sure to reach out to your child's counselor.

Grading Update

During the 2021-2022 school year, the district established a grading committee consisting of teachers, administrators and counselors. The goal of the committee was to examine our current middle/high school grading scale and make recommendations for changes. I am sharing with you a grading FAQ. Please review as there are changes being made to our grading scale for the 2022-2023 school year. These changes will only impact our incoming 7th, 8th and 9th grade students. [Grading Scale Parent FAQ](#)

Naviance

Start making your **COLLEGES I'M APPLYING TO** list in Naviance.

Also make sure to check in frequently and sign up for college **Rep Visits**. These visits have turned out to be EXTREMELY helpful for those who have taken advantage of them. These face-to-face meetings with the admissions officers who will be reading your applications are far more valuable than alumni interviews and can mean the difference for some students. Upcoming visits should be visible on your Naviance landing page.

Contact Us!

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Middle School Counselor

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Student Assistant Counselor Middle School & High School

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