

# South Hunterdon Middle/High School

## Counselors' Corner

September 2023



### **We are excited to introduce our Middle School and High School Counseling Department**

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



In September 2023, Joanne Fenimore entered her nineteenth 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 2023-2024 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 Section 504 coordinator for students in grades 7 - 12, and as a coordinator of our Intervention and Referral Services teams. Mrs. Fenimore is looking forward to welcoming all of our students back this year. She is especially excited about helping the 7th graders make a strong and positive transition to middle school.

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*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 third 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 ninth year as part of the South Hunterdon Regional School District. She began her time in the district as the elementary school counselor for Lambertville Public School and now enters her third 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 treasurer 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.

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## *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 6th 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 the new school year and partnering with his colleagues in the Counseling Department, and is tirelessly working towards always doing the next right thing.

## **The FAFSA**

[FAFSA Information](#) (online information)

[FAFSA Application](#) (online)

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

[CSS Profile Information](#)

[Getting Started with the CSS Profile](#)

**\*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 18, 2023**. This is the first year that the PSAT will be completely digital. Digital testing will allow for more flexibility, enhanced test security, and shorter overall testing times for our students. It still is, quite literally, a practice SAT exam. This 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. There is no charge to families for students taking the digital PSAT at South Hunterdon. Mrs.

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Fenimore will be working throughout the initial months of school to ensure all of our students are registered and ready for testing on October 18th.

**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 three Saturdays during the 2023-2024 school year:

**Saturday, October 7, 2023** - Paper & Pencil SAT

**Saturday, December 2, 2023** - Paper & Pencil SAT

**Saturday, March 9, 2024** - Digital SAT - Please note that all SAT testing from March 2024 onward will be administered digitally.

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, their chromebook with the Blue Book testing app installed, 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 6 - May 17, 2024 this year. The cost is \$98 per exam.

We offer AP exams in the following subjects:

**AP English Language and Composition (11th grade)**

**AP English Literature and Composition (12th grade)**

**AP Biology**

**AP United States History**

**AP French Language and Culture**

**AP Spanish Language and Culture**

**AP Calculus AB**

**AP Statistics**

**AP Precalculus**

**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 (Thursday, September 21, 2023)

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 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.

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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 in the new computer room (the back of the Ag Shop) at South (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 10-12 and 1-3 pm on both Thursdays (8/17/23 and 8/24/2023) and would love to see as many Senior students as possible during the course of the day.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)/Transcript Updates

All student transcripts are in the process of being posted to our new student management system, OnCourse. 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 2023-2024 school year. These changes will only impact our incoming 7th, 8th 9th and 10th 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!

**High School Counselors**

**Middle School Counselor**

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## **Student Assistant Counselor Middle School & High School**

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