

The Road to Solebury School: A Student Guide

**College Preparatory, Day & Boarding
Coeducational, Grades 7-12**

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I took the road to Solebury, and that has made all the difference.

START HERE

NOT EVERYONE CAN UNFOLD AND REFOLD A MAP, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT YOU CAN. FOLD THIS FLAP DOWN FIRST.

So you're thinking about Solebury School? Great.

This little "map" will give you a feel for what it's like to be a student at this awesome school. The most important things to know? Remember these words: CHALLENGE, INDIVIDUALITY, PASSION, CREATIVITY, FREEDOM, FLEXIBILITY, RESPONSIBILITY, INVOLVEMENT, DIVERSITY, INDEPENDENCE, RESPECT, and, yes, FUN. Just follow the Opening Instructions above to get started on your journey. And after you're done folding and unfolding and flipping and reading, we hope you'll come visit to get an even better sense of what it's like to go here. *Enjoy the ride.*

Come visit us!

Good Things Come In small Schools

With 225 students in grades 7-12, Solebury is small on purpose. **BEING SMALL IS A BIG DEAL.** It makes a whole lot of good things possible.

Solebury students:

- Get to know all Solebury students, not just those in their grade or their classes.
- Get to know their teachers well and get plenty of attention from them.
- Take part in all kinds of activities and sports.
- Take advantage of Solebury's many leadership opportunities.
- Choose courses that fit student needs and interests.
- Do something out of the ordinary.

Solebury Small is indeed a very good thing.

"Our smallness enables us to appreciate every kid's story, and every kid's story is important."
—Head of School

THE ROADS FROM SOLEBURY

The roads from Solebury School lead to college, but they DON'T ALL LEAD TO THE SAME COLLEGES.

Like the rest of Solebury, college guidance is an individualized process. The goal is to help students find colleges that are right for them. And it works. With help from the Director of College Counseling, students discover, are accepted by, and attend exceptional, diverse colleges that match their exceptionally diverse interests.

In the past five years, Solebury's more than 200 graduates have chosen to attend about 130 different schools. But these very different institutions have one thing in common: They appreciate Solebury students. In recent years, fully a third of seniors have received merit and/or athletic scholarships from colleges. Solebury graduates report that their Solebury education prepared them very well for the challenges of college courses and college life.

So even if you're not ready to think about colleges just yet, rest assured that when the time comes, you'll get the support you need to navigate the admissions process and find the road that leads to your right college.

Explore the outside world.

Outside

"I like the Solebury campus—you go outside between classes, enjoying the weather and the seasons; you can walk to the pond, around the field, or into the woods; and it's really, really pretty."
—Ashley, Freshman

Think outside the box.

Draw outside the lines.

is IN

Breathe the outside air.

You Could Be HERE

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Phillips Mill Rd
School La

Walter Lamb Hall, boys' dorm

New Hope

The Dining Hall is the center of activity at Solebury School.

Founders Library in the spring.

Carriage House, one of the original campus buildings.

Students visit New Hope to shop and catch a bite to eat.

ESL students study English and American culture at the Penney International Center.

Search
results for Solebury School.
Solebury School
Solebury School's 90-acre campus is located in the gently rolling countryside of Bucks County—beautiful throughout the year. Here you can kick through fall leaves, gaze over frost-dusted fields in winter, and toss a Frisbee amid the bright green of spring.
www.solebury.org/~52k - Cached - Similar pages

Visit www.solebury.org. Then come visit Solebury School.

COMPARISON

LEARNING SKILLS

When I came to Solebury, I made the honor roll for the first time in my life. I don't think I would have even applied to college or thought about my future if it weren't for the Learning Skills Program. I think Solebury really gave me that opportunity.
—Missy, senior

The Learning Skills Program is designed for a small number of bright, creative, and motivated students with language-based learning differences. This structured program, tailored to an individual's needs, helps students find the learning method that's right for them. Students take English as part of the program and receive study hall support, and the foreign language requirement may be waived. Otherwise they are in the same college-prep classes and are asked to meet the same high academic standards as everyone else.

Cool Shirts warm Hearts

Solebury students sell T-shirts to benefit Heartbeat, an organization that helps AIDS orphans in South Africa.

Solebury has long been known for social activism. Students get interested in a cause, learn about a problem, work to remedy it, and educate the rest of the Solebury community along the way. Whether in a club like Amnesty International or on their own, students invest their time and energy to better their community and their world. Some of that interest is channeled into community service, to which Solebury high schoolers must devote at least 10 hours a year (five in Middle School). They learn about people different from—and often less fortunate than—their own, experience other communities, help their own, and gain a fresh perspective on their life. Students might work in a local animal shelter or food pantry, serve as a peer tutor or Sherpa (campus tour guide), raise money for a good cause, or share a talent with children or senior citizens. It's one of the ways Solebury encourages its students to become passionate about being compassionate.

Don't Word Take OUR IT!

Solebury grads have their say.

"I came to the University of Pennsylvania ready for school. Four years of Solebury instruction and high standards from my parents and teachers drove me to always work hard academically.... At Solebury, I was trained in balancing my academic life with my extracurricular life."
—Ezra, University of Pennsylvania

"What Solebury gave me was an appreciation for learning. My teachers really respected the opinions of their students, and they appreciated the potential for what they could learn from the students.... I was able to feed off their passion for learning."
—Juliet, Northwestern University

"One of the things I value most about my experience at Solebury is how much it has prepared me academically for the rigorous nature of college study. My classes helped me to improve and refine my writing and analytical skills."
—Jessica, Boston College

THE OBLIGATORY LIST

OF FACTS & FIGURES

Grades = 7-12 Enrollment = 225

Percentage boys/girls = 50/50

Day-boarding ratio = 2:1 (Middle School is day only)

Student-faculty ratio = 5:1 Average class size < 11

Computers available for student use = 126

21% students of color 15% international students

of sports, activities + clubs = 42

of faculty = 50 # of years they've taught at Solebury = 412

Financial aid budget > \$1.2 million (33% of students receive aid)

Average # of basketball wins per season = 20 # of courses annually ≈ 125

Pounds of food collected in food drives annually = 900

COMPARISON

A NAME UP IN LIGHTS

Like a number of successful professional actors who got their start in Solebury's excellent theater program, Nick has been bitten by the acting bug.

Solebury's teachers and students share their passions—the kind of passion that gets people really excited about a topic, so they spend their time learning about it and doing it instead of, say, playing computer games (unless that's their passion). At Solebury, teachers are encouraged to shape their courses, create new electives, and offer extracurricular activities to share subjects they feel passionately about. In turn, Solebury faculty members encourage students to find something that speaks to them. Teachers spend extra time with kids, encouraging their curiosity and helping them satisfy it. Is it any wonder that so many Solebury students discover interests they never knew they had and pursue them with such enthusiasm, devotion, and, yes, passion?

Solebury School
1925

OPENING MINDS

OPENING INSTRUCTIONS

If you're looking for a school where you can achieve real academic success, you've come to the right place. At Solebury, you can explore your intellectual, creative, and personal POTENTIAL.

You can get excited by classes and get prepared for college, open your mind, and be open-minded. Here there's plenty to learn about and just as much to think about.

STIMULATING AND RIGOROUS COURSES
CHALLENGE YOU TO TAKE YOURSELF TO LEVELS YOU MAY NOT HAVE REALIZED YOU COULD GO
AN INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE CURRICULUM
INCLUDES A WIDE VARIETY OF COURSES
COMMITTED, ACCESSIBLE TEACHERS
INSPIRE YOU TO WORK HARD, DELVE DEEP, AND REALLY ENJOY IT.

MINDS ARE FILLED WITH IDEAS BUT ARE NEVER FULL.

All of this is possible because of Solebury's unique learning environment. Its small size, strong academics, flexibility, close student-faculty relationships, diversity, and freedom tempered with responsibility make it easy for students to learn and grow. At Solebury, minds are indeed opened, and opened wide.

"Solebury is definitely harder than my old school, but it's easier to learn here."
—Natalie, Freshman

GRASP RIGHT SIDE OF PAGE AND PULL TO LEFT. WHILE HOLDING ON BACK PAGE, OPEN TO FULL WIDTH.

First-Name Basis



It may strike you as odd at first—this first-name basis students and teachers are on. It's **Scott and Diane, Britta and Steve**. Initially, some people—parents especially—have an issue with it. They think it shows disrespect. But at Solebury, it signifies exactly the opposite: the genuine respect students and teachers show for one another. Here faculty and students get to know each other as people, as friends, and as partners in learning.

Close student-teacher relationships yield big benefits for both sides. Faculty members are inspired by eager and engaged students who take an active part in the learning process. Teachers give time and energy outside of class to work with kids who need extra help or who get interested in something and want to explore it further. Some teachers offer extracurricular activities that tap into their outside interests. Almost every student connects with at least one teacher, finding a mentor, an intellectual colleague, a surrogate parent, and inspiration.

"Respect is shown in a real way, not in a superficial way... Students feel more respected, and because they feel more respected, they give more respect to the teachers."

—Lilla, parent

You think that a small school should lack of diversity, but it does. There are students from around the country and around the world, from inner cities and suburbs and rural areas, and from a rainbow of races, economic backgrounds, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, physical abilities, and learning styles. **Solebury's diversity is a matter of pride.**

"Diversity at Solebury"—D-Club in Solebury-speak—is the most popular club on campus.

While the school is arguably a **mini United Nations**, it is also unarguably united.



Solebury's 1st Inequality Theorem

community \neq conformity

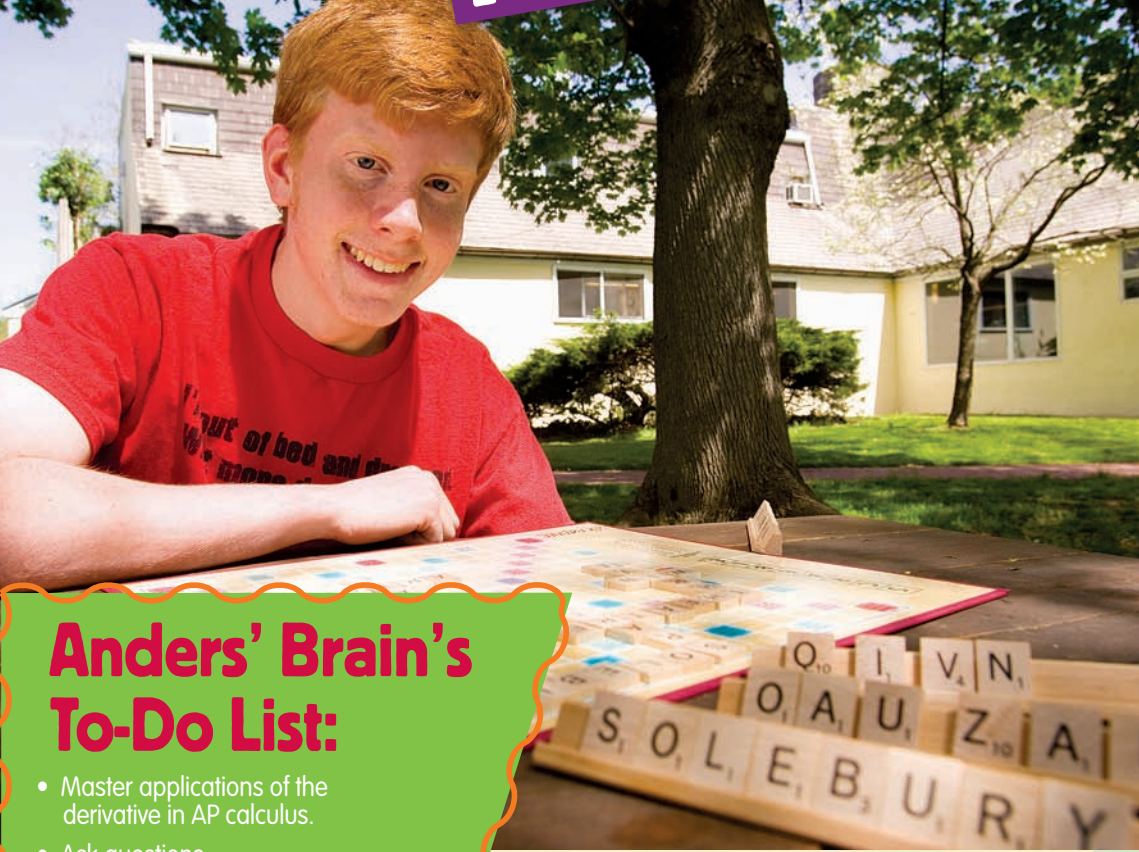
At Solebury, students can be **accepted** by their peers and still be themselves. In fact, it is precisely by being themselves that students are most accepted. They are their own distinct thread woven into the vibrant fabric that is the **Solebury community**.



Students boast about the lack of cliques—no groups of brains or artsy types or upperclassmen who keep to themselves. Kids who like theater hang with kids who like sports. Some kids who like theater are the same kids who like sports. Seventh graders are friends with 10th graders, and students are friends with teachers. As one student put it, "Everyone here hangs out together as one big community. Even if you don't like the same stuff, everyone is good friends."

At Solebury, it's not "us vs. them" or even "us and them." It's just "us."

HOW NOT WHAT



Anders' Brain's To-Do List:

- Master applications of the derivative in AP calculus.
- Ask questions.
- Find answers.
- Question answers.
- Write reflections on awesome history field trip.
- Think objectively.
- Express ideas passionately. (Could use some help from heart on this one!)
- Parler à Steve à propos de ma présentation sur la Martinique.
- Revolutionize robotics.
- Beat William, my honors chem teacher, at chess.
- Prepare, conceive, research, reflect, organize, write, reconsider, revise. Repeat.
- Don't be late for wrestling practice.

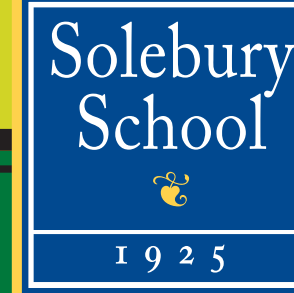
Learn **HOW** to think, not **WHAT** to think.

At Solebury, Middle School isn't about being "in the middle." It's about being "in both."

Here you can take **challenging courses** that are specifically **designed to prepare you** for the demands of the high school, since Middle School teachers also teach Upper School classes and know what skills will be needed. **You can get close** to a small group of same-age kids, hanging out together in the Middle School lounge or **having fun after school** in Middle School Activity. And there's a great support system that includes the Middle School director, your own advisor, and the teachers.



At Solebury, you can also take advantage of what the high school has to offer. You can take high school courses (if you're ready for them) or take part in its sports, plays, and musical activities. Whether you share a class, a team, or a lunch period, you can be friends with upperclassmen and learn from them. **THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO HOW FAR YOU CAN GO IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.**



MIDDLE SCHOOL

day students grades 7 and 8

SOLEBURY FIELDS COMPETITIVE TEAMS EVERY SEASON. with cross-country, basketball, and track enjoying significant success. Most teams play in our local athletic conference, and Solebury scholar-athletes routinely go on to play college sports. In the last decade, 14 Solebury students have earned Division I basketball scholarships.

Because Solebury offers a lot of teams for a school its size, every student who wants to can participate in team sports. In addition, the school offers non-team sports such as biking, golf, rock climbing, and weight training. Sportsmanship, team-building, fitness, and skill acquisition are all important parts of Solebury athletics.

To find out about all of Solebury's varsity and junior varsity teams, other sports, fitness activities, and clubs—and to see photos of the new track and athletic center that are transforming Solebury's sports facilities—go to www.solebury.org.



GOOD SPORTS PLAY GREAT SPORTS

soleburyfoodforthought.com

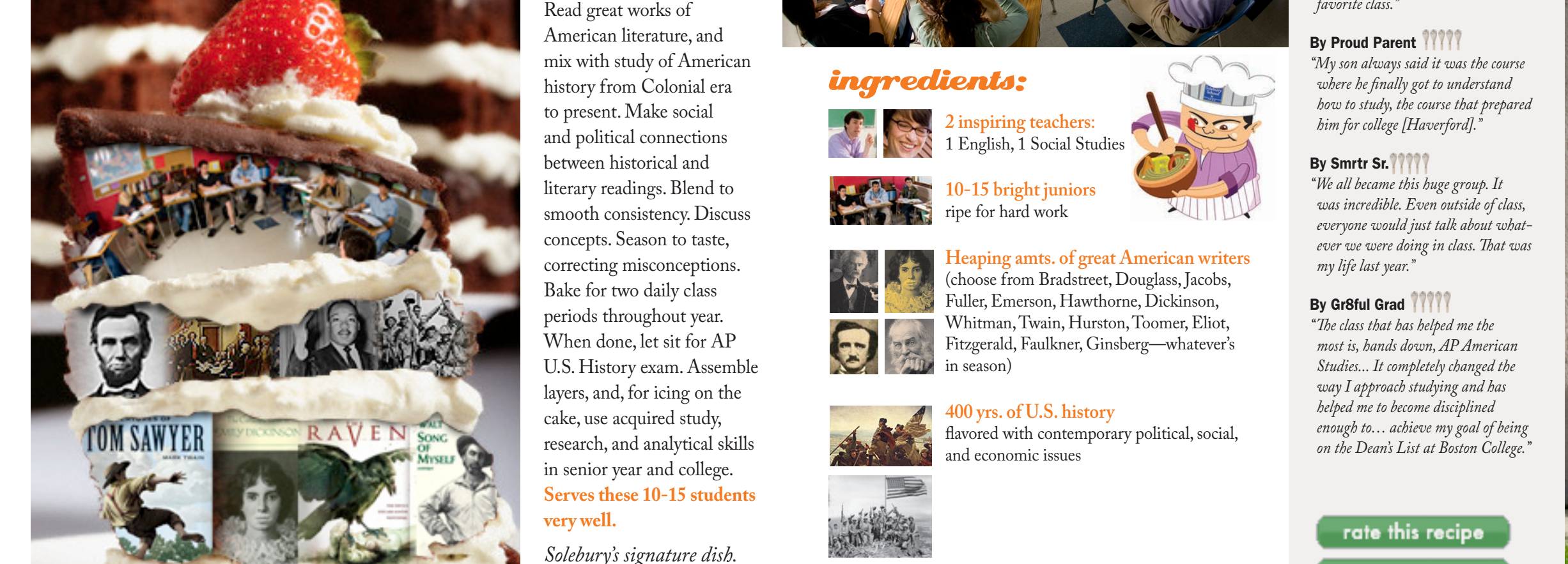
RECIPES FEATURES COOKING RESTAURANTS BAKING MEMBERS

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recipe photo reviews video your note

AmStud

AN AMERICAN STUDIES LAYER CAKE



preparation:

Read great works of American literature, and mix with study of American history from Colonial era to present. Make social and political connections between historical and literary readings. Blend to smooth consistency. Discuss concepts. Season to taste, correcting misconceptions. Bake for two daily class periods throughout year. When done, let sit for AP U.S. History exam. Assemble layers, and, for icing on the cake, use acquired study, research, and analytical skills in senior year and college. **Serves these 10-15 students very well.**

Solebury's signature dish.



reviews:

average user rating

By **Stefan** 1/1/11

"This is one of the most challenging courses at Solebury, but it was probably my favorite class."

By **Proud Parent** 1/1/11

"My son always said it was the course where he finally got to understand how to study, the course that prepared him for college [Haverford]."

By **Smrtt Sc** 1/1/11

"We all became this huge group. It was incredible. Even outside of class, everyone would just talk about whatever we were doing in class. That was my life last year."

By **Gr8ful Grad** 1/1/11

"The class that has helped me the most is, hands down, AP American Studies... It completely changed the way I approach studying and has helped me to become disciplined enough to... achieve my goal of being on the Dean's List at Boston College."

rate this recipe

review this recipe

TO NOT FROM

Solebury freedom \sɒl-ber-ə-fre-dem\ n (1925) 1: the quality of being free along with being responsible 2: the ability to make your own choices (whether to study now or later, in the library or under a tree) and to learn to make good choices 3: the challenge to think freely and creatively 4: the state of being trusted, esp. with increasing trust as trust is earned 5: independence with a net 6: freedom **TO** (experiment, discover, become), **NOT FROM** (rules, supervision, responsibilities)



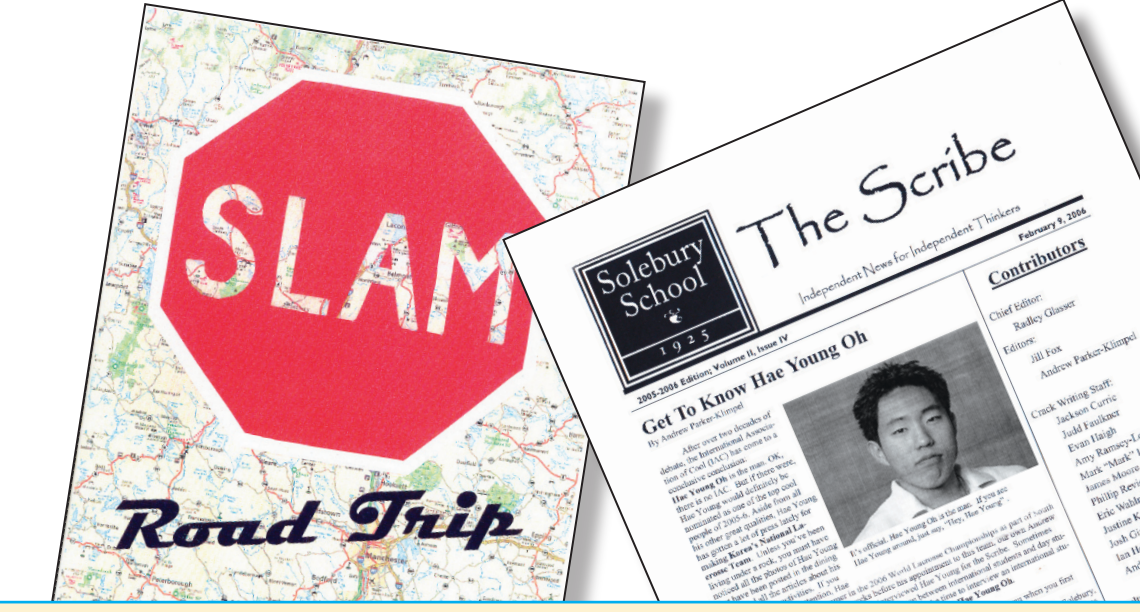
"My freshman year at college, I had a writing teacher ask where I'd gone to school and what writing classes I'd taken to get me so prepared for college-level papers."

—Katie, Solebury School and University of Pennsylvania graduate

"I don't care what size the margins are. I care that it's a well-reasoned, well-written paper."

—Hanna, English teacher

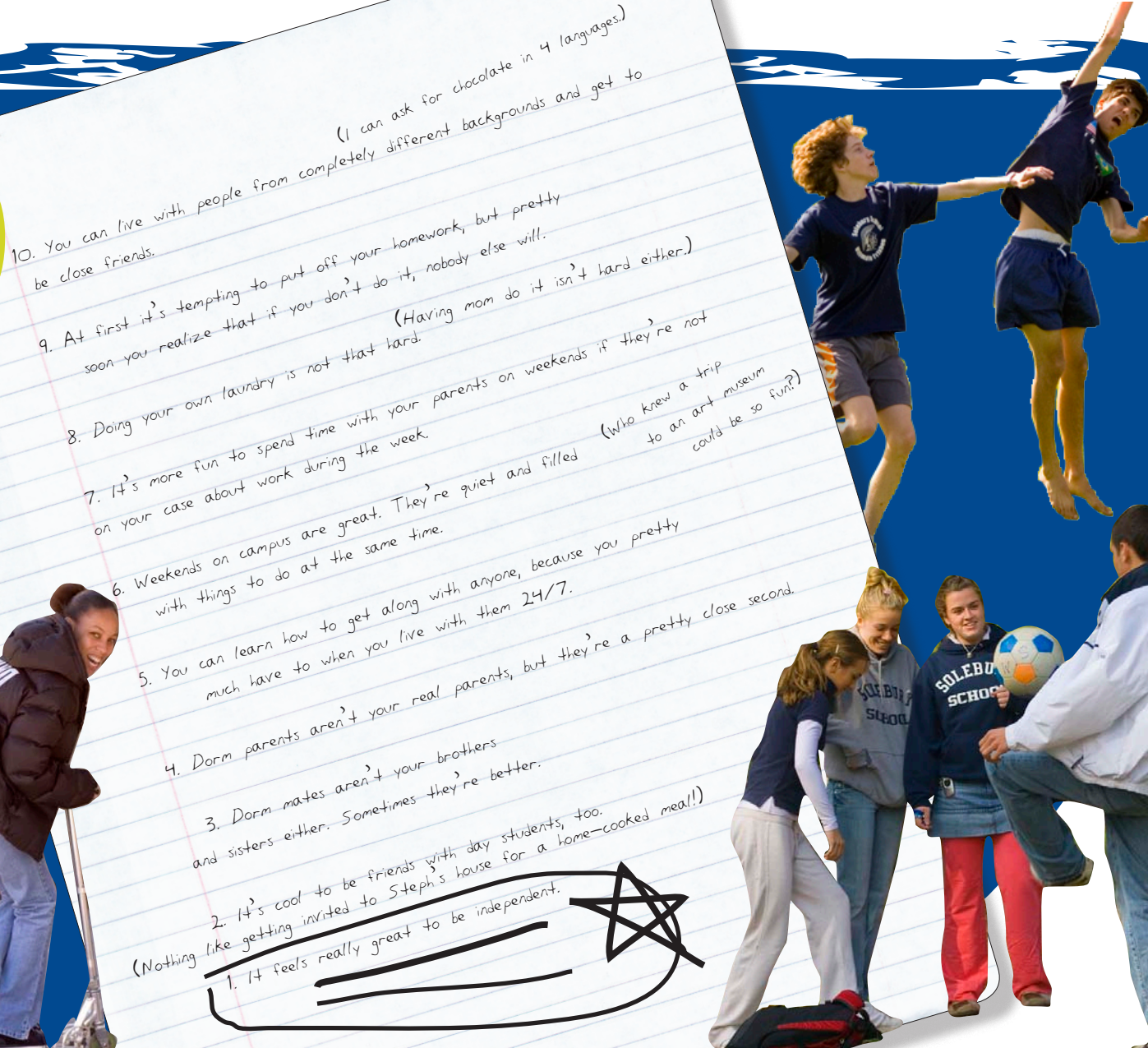
The Write Place



If you come to Solebury, be prepared to write. Learning to write well is emphasized across the curriculum. All classes have writing components, and many are writing intensive. Solebury teachers have high standards, and they teach students to communicate their ideas clearly in a variety of genres—from essays to creative writing—as well as in public speaking. Extracurricular activities give students who love to write additional opportunities to express them-

selves and hone their craft. Those interested in poetry, fiction, or journalism can join **SLAM** (Solebury's Literary Arts Magazine) or *The Scribe* (the student newspaper). Several student-journalists also contribute to local newspapers. Aspiring playwrights can see their work produced on the Solebury stage, since the spring production is generally both student-directed and student-written. So if you do come to Solebury, be prepared to become prepared to write very well.

TOP 10 THINGS I LEARNED AT BOARDING SCHOOL



Solebury's 3rd Inequality Theorem

boarding \neq boring

At Solebury, **there are plenty of activities to keep a boarder busy** day and night: trips to the mall or the movies, Great Adventure, Philadelphia, New York, and the Poconos for skiing, food/video or board game nights, dances, and midnight bowling, to name a handful. Here there's no such thing as nothing to do, unless you want to do nothing.

MARTIN & ALBERT

What I admire about Albert is that he understands the importance of confidence in everything you do. Over the course of our public-speaking class, I watched him transform from a polite, likable boy into a confident young man willing to do what it takes to get where he wants to be.

Albert
What I admire about Martin is that he always makes time for you, but he doesn't just tell you what to do. Instead he gets you to think for yourself, to do your best, and to pursue your dreams. In public speaking, he was encouraging even when we stumbled, telling us that the best speeches come when you make mistakes first.



STEVE & MAGGIE

Steve
What I admire about Maggie is that she is a compassionate soul with a creative mind. Though we knew each other as teacher/student and advisor/advisee, working with her in Spectrum (the gay/straight alliance), I came to know her as a fierce defender of human rights. Solebury teachers are lucky that they can get to know students in different contexts and learn from them.

Maggie
What I admire about Steve is that he's always there for me as a teacher, an advisor, and most of all as a friend. He knows exactly how I'm doing in my classes, and if my grades slipped, he'd call me on it, pushing me to do better. Very quiet and very kind, Steve values what everyone has to say, which is why he's such a good leader for Spectrum.

WANTED



MUSICIAN-HONOR STUDENT

MATHEMATICIAN-STUDENT LEADER

ROCK CLIMBER-FUTURE EXECUTIVE

ATHLETE-LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

SOLEBURY KNOWS YOU'RE NOT your grades or your test scores, the clothes you wear, or the people you hang out with. **YOU ARE THE SUM OF YOUR INTERESTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS, YOUR PASSIONS, AND THE POTENTIAL YOU HAVE YET TO REALIZE.** Solebury is looking for students ready to explore that potential.

Unlike at larger schools, where many students vie for limited activity positions, Solebury provides plenty of opportunities to pursue your varied interests. Here you can make the grade and the team, play in the ensemble and act in the play. You can join a club. Play a sport. Try something new. Get involved. Explore all you have to offer.

THE REWARD! IS UP TO YOU!

An International Flavor

With one in seven students from a foreign country, Solebury provides a lesson in international relations and relationships. American students may find themselves with a study partner from Seoul, a roommate from Sao Paulo, and friends from everywhere—Madrid, Spain, to Tokyo, Japan (or maybe just a part of the U.S. that feels a world away). Meanwhile, international students become immersed in the American experience while they learn English—all in a small, safe environment. **The sharing of cultures enriches everyone.**



Solebury's English as a Second Language program is superb, and many students find themselves well ahead of their peers at other boarding schools. For more information on ESL, see the separate brochure or www.solebury.org.



A Custom Fit

Solebury's size helps it stay incredibly flexible. Course selection is **individually tailored**. Middle schoolers who have had Algebra I can take Geometry alongside high schoolers. Students sometimes supplement their coursework with **independent studies** or enroll in **classes at local colleges**. The curriculum includes honors courses, AP courses, and a changing roster of about 60 electives per year from Ancient Art History to Winter Ecology, offered by teachers passionate about the subject matter. Each year brings a new academic theme, such as war, music, or the environment, which is integrated into classes, assemblies, projects, and community dialogue. And at the end of the year, seniors are given the opportunity to pursue a three-week, **self-designed senior project**.

At graduation, several Senior Prizes are awarded in recognition of significant student achievements. What's unusual, however, is that the faculty fits these prizes to the students, rather than fitting students to predetermined prizes. It's yet another example of Solebury's profound **respect** for the individual, its dedication to being **flexible**, and its commitment to finding **the right fit**.

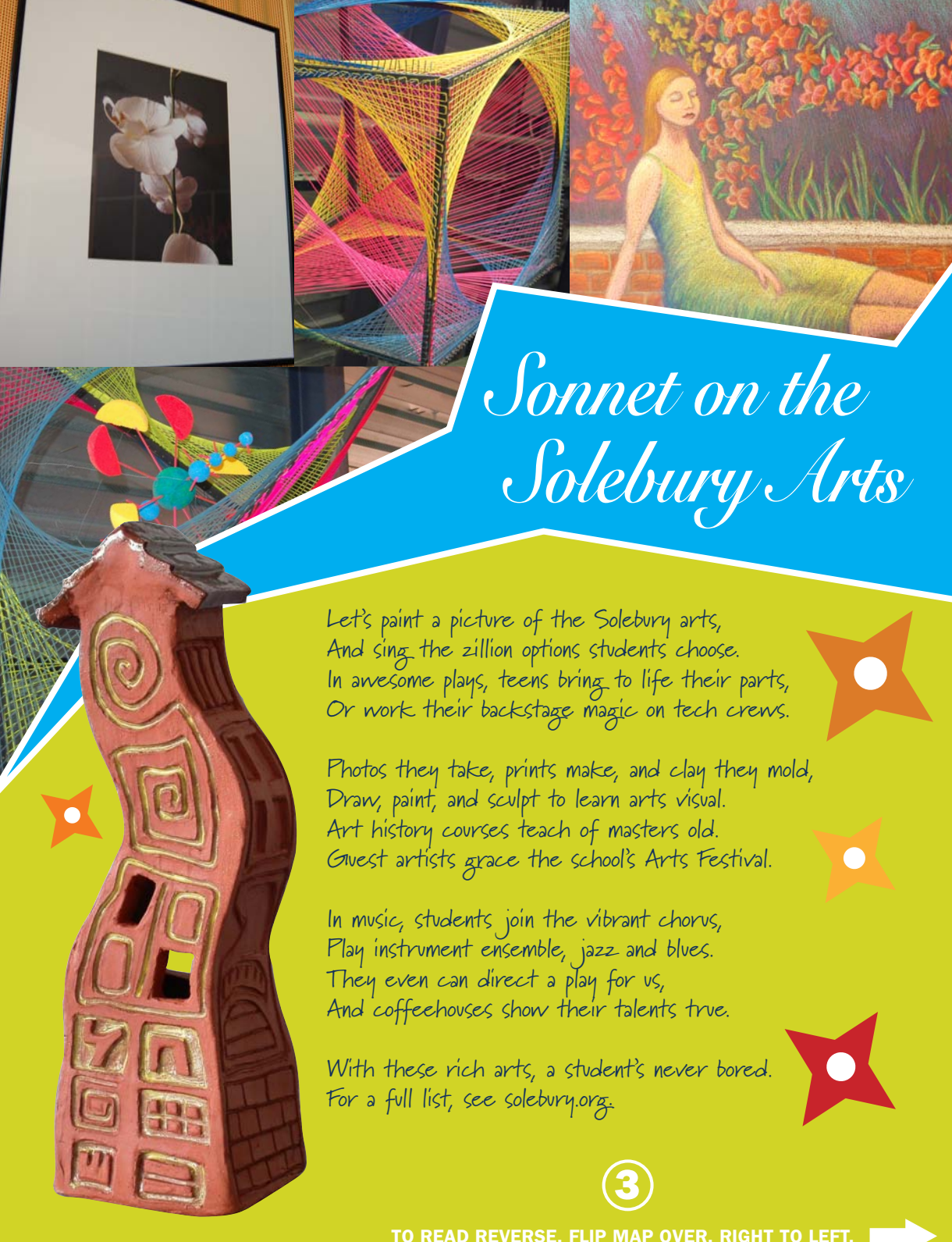
Solebury's 2nd Inequality Theorem

rigorous \neq rigid

At Solebury, a **challenging education** is found everywhere but rarely looks the same. There is **no mold** for intellectual inquiry, no one approach for **academic achievement**. Teachers teach to the student, not the test.



Not just that kind of M&M. Solebury's M&M stands for **Music & Meeting**, a club meeting, or conference with students can go to chorus or ensemble, attend during the school day, students don't have to choose between the environmental club and the baseball diamond, just between their **favorite M&Ms**.



Sonnet on the Solebury Arts

Let's paint a picture of the Solebury arts, And sing the zillion options students choose. In awesome plays, teens bring to life their parts, Or work their backstage magic on tech crews.

Photos they take, prints make, and clay they mold, Draw, paint, and sculpt to learn arts visual. Art history courses teach of masters old, Guest artists grace the school's Arts Festival.

In music, students join the vibrant chorus, Play instrument ensemble, jazz and blues. They even can direct a play for us, And coffeehouses show their talents true.

With these rich arts, a student's never bored. For a full list, see solebury.org.