SOPHOMORES – DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Hello from the Counseling Center at Moon Area High School. My name is Julie Sitko and I am the College and Career Counselor. My role is to advise and support students and families in the college search and to help identify "best fit" colleges and universities, and to assist students in realizing their post-secondary goals. This monthly newsletter will keep you on track for post-secondary planning. Please reach out to me with any questions.

College Counseling Series at Moon Area HS: Throughout the spring, I'll be hosting monthly college counseling programs, held virtually, in the evenings. All programs will be recorded and posted the Moon Area Counseling Center website. Here's what's coming up:

Post Secondary Education Planning Night
Tuesday, January 30, 2024
6:30 PM
Recommended for grades 10-11
This is a program for parents and guardians to understand the basics of post-secondary planning. Join college counselors from Moon and Pine Richland High Schools along with guest speaker, Jennifer Winge, Vice President for Enrollment at the College of Wooster, as they share helpful tips for a successful launch to your college search process. This will be a general presentation for all students who are thinking about attending a four – year college. Registration information will be available in January.

PSAT:
Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in October, the results are available.
There are a few ways to get your child's scores. If they provided a phone number when they tested, they should have received a text saying the scores are available and should be able to get their scores from the link in the text.
--If they did not provide a phone number, but have a college board account, they can log into their college board account and should see their scores. If their scores are not in their account, they might not have been matched. The good news – students can match their PSAT scores to their college board account with the matching tool.
--If your child does not have a college board account, they can create one, then match their account to the PSAT scores so they can see their scores.
--If your child is going to create a college board account, PLEASE be sure to write down the email address and password they use when they create the account. Also make a note of the security phrase. It is outrageously difficult to get into a locked college board account, so please keep track of all account information.

Emails from Post-Secondary Schools:
If you have not yet, you will be getting inundated with emails from colleges. I have a few suggestions on how you can manage the emails.

1. Create an email address just for post-secondary planning. That way, all of the emails you get from colleges won't flood your regular inbox.
2. You can create a folder in your email and filter emails from the colleges you think you want to look at later. You can also create a folder of schools that you are interested in, so you don't miss any important messages from them.
3. Check this email account once a week or every few days. Delete messages you're not interested in. You're going to be overwhelmed with information from colleges and managing the emails is necessary, so you don't miss anything important.

If you are looking for good college resources, here are two of my favorites:
Georgia Tech Admission Blog has a lot of great information not specific about Georgia Tech, but about the college search and selection process in general. The blog is insightful, educational, and humorous.
https://pwp.gatech.edu/admission-blog/

The College Essay Guy – another great website for assistance in writing college essays, along with general information about the college search/selection process. He is witty and has awesome advice on essays. He charges a fee to review essays, but he also has a lot of free information on his website. https://www.collegeessayguy.com/

Summer Programs:

PA School for Excellence in Agricultural Studies at Penn State, **University of Pittsburgh Health Careers Scholars Academy**, **Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive at Lehigh University**, Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, and the **Governor's School for Global and International Studies at Pitt**: These are excellent enrichment opportunities for high achieving current sophomores and juniors. Click on the name of the program for more information. Application and information can be found on individual program websites. All applications are due in mid-February. But don't wait, turn them in ASAP!

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW) is a one-of-a-kind summer program that offers in-coming high school juniors and seniors a unique and challenging opportunity to see what it is like to run their own business. Participants will make up an "imaginary" management team where they will learn first-hand about the Free Enterprise System. Their task - turn their failing company into a financial success. They will develop their own marketing strategies, design a website and, make all the decisions that are demanded of real-life company executives. This weeklong program is at Lycoming College, in Williamsport and students have the option to choose between four different weeks. PFEW is FREE, although there is a $295 non-refundable registration fee.

Carnegie Mellon is offering several in-person Summer Pre-College Programs in architecture, art, computational biology, design, drama, music, gaming, and game design, and writing and culture. The also offer the following programs at no-cost; computer science, summer academy for math and science, and an artificial intelligence program called AI4ALL. For more information about any of these programs, you should attend an information session..

Many colleges offer both in person and online summer programs. Check with schools that interest you to see if they offer anything in the summer.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.