

SOPHOMORES – FEBRUARY 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:

Skilled Trades/On-the-Job Training program

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

6:30 PM

Recommended for grades 10-11

More information to come about this program

College Fairs:

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is hosting a national (big) college fair in Pittsburgh on February 7-8, 2024. Parents/guardians and along with sophomores are invited to attend the evening session on February 7 from 6-8:30 PM. Students are required to pre-register here: <https://www.nacacattend.org/24Pittsburgh> (there, you will also find a list of colleges who will be in attendance).

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.

ASVAB:

The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students. The test can also be taken by students wanting to know where their abilities lie. The ASVAB is required for any student interested in enlisting in the military.

Students not interested in the military who score a minimum of 31 on the ASVAB can use the assessment as an alternative to the Keystone assessments which is a mandated Pathway for Graduation set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The test is offered to Moon students, on Wednesday, March 6, free of charge. [To register, students must sign up here.](#) Registration runs through March 1. Any questions, stop by the counseling office.

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. They also offer the following programs at no-cost; computer science, summer academy for math and science, and an artificial intelligence program called AI4ALL.

[The Wildlife Leadership Academy](#) enriches Pennsylvania teens and empowers them to become certified conservation ambassadors through a five-day residential summer field school program. Program costs \$500 for the week, and scholarships are available.

[Hillman Academy](#) is a summer research opportunity for rising juniors and seniors through UPMC. Participants will perform an authentic cancer research project and receive mentorship from university faculty and trainees. Applications are due February 11, 2024

[The Ice-T Project](#) is an initiative of The Citizen Science Lab, Black/African-American High School Youth will learn the computational and experimental techniques required to examine the physiology, biochemistry, and voltage potential of microbial fuel cells (MFC), a living battery made powered by bacteria. Once participants learn the basics they will then build and create their own device powered by these living batteries. More information will be share on the website as it becomes available.

[Black College Institute at Virginia Tech](#) – for Black students who are intellectually curious and interested in attending Virginia Tech. To be eligible:

1. Must be a rising junior or rising senior in high school
2. Must have an interest in attending Virginia Tech
3. Must be highly motivated and academically curious
4. Application deadline April 26, 2024

[Bucknell Academy Summer Experience \(BASE\)](#) is a collaborative residential experience where students are invited to explore the value of a liberal arts perspective in making challenging decisions to improve today's world. At BASE, students will experience interdisciplinary study from top tier professors while challenging their thought processes. This year's theme is To Share or Not to Share: How has social media impacted society and what can we learn from it? When: June 23-28, 2024. Who: Rising juniors and seniors in high school are welcome to apply.

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/>