

## **SOPHOMORES – JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

Julie Sitko, College and Career Counselor

[jsitko@moonarea.net](mailto:jsitko@moonarea.net)

412-264-9440, ext. 2038

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 21, 2025

**6:30 PM**

**ONLINE**

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 Allegheny College, 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. Here is the registration link:

[https://allegheny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LcD4-JMZQkKg9-33h5vzzA](https://allegheny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LcD4-JMZQkKg9-33h5vzzA)

### ***Going Digital - Everything You Need to Know About the Digital SAT and Digital ACT***

Monday, February 10

**6:30 PM**

**ONLINE**

*Registration: Please register by 6PM on Monday, February 10 via the link below:*

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)**

Please join Goldstein Test Prep founder Mike Goldstein to discuss and make sense of the recent changes in admissions testing. Topics will include: • All things digital SAT, including the shorter format, adaptive testing, logistics of taking the test, and what we know from the first cycle of digital testing • How adaptive scoring will mean different tests for different students • The new format of the combined reading/writing sections with one paragraph per question • The College Board's Bluebook App and the digital test taking tools created to assist students • Major changes coming to the ACT this spring including the option for digital and paper testing and an optional science section • The continued evolution of test optional admissions policies and how to determine where to send test scores • Decisions by schools such as Yale, Dartmouth, the University of Texas, Purdue, and others to require test scores of all applicants and what it means for admissions rates, average scores, and diversity goals.

The program will include an extensive Q&A session in which participants can type questions and have them answered in real time during the presentation. Feel free to email any questions in advance

to [mike.goldstein@goldsteintestprep.com](mailto:mike.goldstein@goldsteintestprep.com).

### **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. Turn in the applications 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 \$600 for the week, and scholarships are available.

Eisenman Materials Camp <https://www.asmfoundation.org/students/materials-camps/eisenman/>

Highly motivated inquisitive learners with math and science aptitude. Camp utilizing hands on learning principles and applied math and science. Apply here: Application deadline March 31, 2025. Program July 13-18, 2025 at ASM International Headquarters (20 miles east of Cleveland). Accommodations are included.