SOPHOMORES – MARCH 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. This is the time start thinking about life after high school. 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 or concerns.

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 (look for College Counseling Series. The following events are relevant to 10th graders and their parents:

The College Process for Parents webinar:
March 26, 2025
6:30 PM
Allegheny College is offering a Moon parents a webinar on the College Search Process just for parents. Topics will include: the college search, the college application, financial aid and making the 'decision.' Registration is required. Please register here: https://admissions.allegheny.edu/register/?id=2afb97ed-7eda-40eb-9048-e186532cb4ce

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. 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. **The test is offered to Moon students, on Wednesday, March 12, free of charge**. Register here: https://forms.office.com/r/pdLhnhShQp

Summer Programs:
Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (AHEC) 2025 Summer Health Career Academy
This program is open to students who are interested in learning more about various careers in healthcare. Over the course of 5 days this July, students will have the opportunity to hear from leaders in various health care professions and participate in hands-on simulations. The Academy is hosted at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
A confirmation email will be sent once the application is received. **Applications are due by May 3rd, 2025.** If you have any questions, please reach out to HCA@SouthwestAHEC.org.

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, andscholarships are available.

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.

The Readiness Institute Summer Program through Penn State University is a six-week paid experience for rising high school seniors that helps them become community and future ready. Participants will have the opportunity to establish relationships and rituals, participate in essential skill workshops, complete projects that address real-world problems, and create personalized road maps for future success. After the program concludes, participants will have continued access to support including mentorship, additional learning experiences, and peer networking. Each participant will receive a stipend and a laptop to use while enrolled in the program. Transportation will be provided as needed. Applications due March 31, 2025.

The West Point Summer Leader Experience (SLE) provides rising high school seniors with a week-long immersion into the academic, military and social life of a cadet. AT SLE you'll explore West Point from all angles, including the high-tech facilities, team building athletic activities, and realistic military training. You will get a taste of Cadet life throughout the program, which is led by current West Point cadets. Application opens February 15.

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 22-27, 2025. Who: Rising juniors and seniors in high school are welcome to apply.

Duquesne University Summer STEM Camp will take place June 17-21, 2025 on the campus of Duquesne University and is designed for rising sophomores, juniors, and senior high school students from the local Pittsburgh area schools that have demonstrated a strong interest in science. We would like to expose high school students from populations underrepresented in science, via an immersive, diverse, hands-on learning experience.

Pitt, in partnership with Pitt Information Technology will host the Air Force Association CyberCamp June 23-27, 2025. This week-long program is free and open to high school students and teaches cybersecurity principles, skills, and future career opportunities.

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.

Duke University offers summer academic opportunities for students. Rising seniors are invited to take classes with Duke Professors, where you can earn college credit. Students also have an option to take personal enrichment courses, with a global perspective, through the Summer Academy.

Youth Garden Internship
Overview: NHCO is seeking two youth Garden Interns to help grow produce for low-income families and learn more about vegetable gardening. Duties include:

- Working under the Garden Coordinator to help maintain the garden through field preparations, planting, cultivation, harvesting and packing crops to be distributed at NHCO's three food pantries
- Assist volunteers as needed
- Record amount of food grown and distributed to food pantries
- Participate in the Youth Garden Summit at the end of the season

Site Location: 119 Davis Ave, Bellevue, PA 15202
Hours and Timeline:

- Position will begin June 2025 and go through August 2025 during summer break
- 8-10 hours/week average, flexible schedule, Monday-Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm

Compensation: $10.30/hour
To Apply: Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Kate Robson at kerobson@NHCO.org.
Applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 2025.

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.

Summer Inspirit **AI program** at OLSH: Students will learn the fundamental concepts of AI and gain a deeper understanding of how AI is used to build ChatGPT and generative AI, predict stock market trends, power self-driving cars, recognize and create art, help first responders, and more. Students will learn to program AI using Python, discuss ethics and bias within AI, and complete a group project applying AI to a discipline like healthcare, astronomy, and finance, among others. No prior computer science experience is required to participate, and advanced cohorts are available. Program runs Monday - Friday from June 16-June 27 from 9-12:30. Cost Is $1400.

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/

Education and Support Series:
The Moon Area High School Transition team is offering the following programs for our students and families. All meetings start at 6:00 PM and to join them,

CLICK: Join the meeting now
or SCAN:

Tuesday March 25 at 6pm - McGovern Wealth Group: Lifetime Financial Growth
Ryan Wirth- Wealth Management Advisor

- Navigating financial and estate planning can feel overwhelming, especially when preparing for the future of a loved one with a disability. This discussion will offer valuable insights and practical strategies to help you plan effectively and secure long-term well-being for your loved one.

Tuesday April 15 at 6pm - CCAC West Hills Center

Jennifer Cowans- Executive Director of West Hills Center

- Overview of what CCAC has to offer, College terminology, Cost of college, how do you pay for college, and highlight skilled trades/apprenticeship program options.

Wednesday May 7 at 6pm - PA CareerLink Pittsburgh

Alexis McCartney- Site Administrator

- PA CareerLink Pittsburgh will provide a general overview of the online and in person career services, resources, and skill building courses available for jobseekers.