🎓 Junior Newsletter | September 2025

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🎓 Welcome to a New School Year!

I'm Julie Sitko, your College and Career Counselor. Junior year is a critical time to begin planning for life after high school. Each month, you'll receive this newsletter to stay on track with post-secondary planning and opportunities.

🗓️ Fall to -do list for juniors:

- Start exploring colleges and careers using Naviance
- Consider taking the PSAT – October 4
- Register for SAT/ACT (Winter dates)
- Sign up for college visits at Moon
- Begin test prep if you plan to test

🏫 College Fairs – Mark Your Calendars!

Christian College Fair

📍 Eden Christian Academy | ❗ Sept. 18 | ⏰ 6–8 PM

➡️ Register here: https://www.findyourchristiancollege.com/

North Pittsburgh Fair

📍 LaRoche University | 🗓️ Oct. 6 | ⏰ 6–8 PM

South Pittsburgh Fair

📍 Bethel Park High School | 🗓️ Oct. 7

West Pittsburgh Fair

📍 Robert Morris University | 🗓️ Oct. 8 | ⏰ 6–8 PM

➡️ Register for a barcode (for all regional college fairs) at www.StriveFair.com

College fairs help students compare schools, explore scholarships, and ask important questions like:

• What are your most popular majors?
• What's your campus culture like?
• What is your graduation rate?

💰 Financial Aid & FAFSA

🎓 **PHEAA Virtual Financial Aid Night**

🗓️ Thursday, Oct. 16 | ⏰ 7:00 PM

💻 Join from home – there will be an opportunity to ask questions

➡️ Register here

🎓 College Programs in Pittsburgh:

United States Service Academies – Fall information seminar

📍 Robert Morris University| 🗓️ Oct. 30 | ⏰ Doors open at 5:30. Program runs 6-9

All military academies will be present

Notre Dame on the Road

📍 North Catholic HS | 🗓️ Sept. 30 | ⏰ 7 PM

Insight into Notre Dame academics, admissions, and financial aid

University of Chicago Visit

📍 Sewickley Academy | 🗓️ Oct. 16| ⏰ 7 PM

🏫 **College Reps Visiting Moon:**

College reps are visiting Moon Area to speak with students!

📍 Sign up in Naviance > What's New

🔔 Visits close 1 hour before start time

✉️ See daily announcements for upcoming visits

🧠 **ASVAB Testing:**

🗓️ November 5 at Moon

📌 Ideal for students exploring careers or considering military service

➡️ Registration available in October

📝 **SAT & ACT information:**

✅ SAT: www.collegeboard.org

✅ ACT: www.act.org

📎 Testing schedule available in the Class of 2027 Teams folder and Counseling Center webpage.

Key Notes:

- Many colleges are test-optional—check school policies!
- Every college accepts SAT or ACT, no preference
- Students on free/reduced lunch: ask for fee waivers
- Skip the ACT writing section unless required
  - 🔗 Check test-optional policies: www.fairtest.org/university/optional

✅ When creating a College Board account, do not use a Moon email address. Use a personal email instead and be sure to save the username and password.

📚 **ACT/SAT Test Prep Options**

- **Khan Academy** (FREE SAT prep): khanacademy.org
- **ACT Academy** (FREE ACT prep): academy.act.org
- **Penn State Beaver** – In-person SAT classes: https://beaver.psu.edu/ce/youth/sat
  Classes begin Sept. 27.
- **3RPrep** – Virtual & in-person options: https://www.3rprep.com/
- **Goldstein Test Prep** – SAT/ACT tutoring (in-person & virtual)
  - 📞 412-874-7645 | Website: goldsteintestprep.com
    - Offering an in-person SAT class at Sewickley Academy, starting 10/4. Register here.
- **Eaton Prep** – Classes at Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center and virtually www.eatonprep.com
- **Fox Chapel HS SAT Bootcamp:** Saturday, Sept. 28. If interested, reach out to Lisa Gibson--lisa_gibson@fcasd.edu

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💉 **PSAT at Moon – Oct. 4**

🗓️ Registration information will be shared through Skyward and on Teams

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📧 Any questions? Reach out to Mrs. Wilhelm

🏅 **NCAA information for athletes:**

🏈 Planning to play D1 or D2 college sports?

➡️ Register at www.eligibilitycenter.org

📩 Transcripts sent at year-end

📖 Check page 18 of the Program of Studies for approved courses

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🧭 **Visting Colleges – What to Ask:**

- What's the 4-year graduation rate?
- What's your retention rate for freshmen?
- What's the middle 50% GPA/test score range?
- How do you help undecided students pick a major?
- Are students challenged and supported academically?

📬 **Managing College Emails:**

📌 Create a dedicated email just for colleges

📁 Set up folders for top schools

🗓️ Check your inbox weekly and clear out clutter

🎓 **Scholarships:**

💻 Log in to Naviance > Colleges > Scholarships & Money > Scholarship Search

🔁 Updated regularly

Top websites to search:

- Fastweb
- Going Merry
- Pittsburgh Foundation

💸 College Board Opportunity Scholarships

Earn chances for scholarships just by planning and prepping!

🔍 **Helpful College Planning Resources:**

🎓 Georgia Tech Admission Blog

✍️ College Essay Guy

🕵️ **FBI Teen Academy – Apply Now!**

High school juniors & seniors interested in **FBI careers (not just criminal justice!)** can apply for the **2024 Pittsburgh FBI Teen Academy.**

🧠 Learn about the FBI's workforce and build relationships. Register here.