

Junior Newsletter | October 2025

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Welcome, Class of 2027 Families!

I'm excited to support your child as they begin their post-secondary planning journey. As the College and Career Counselor, my goal is to help students discover their "best fit" path—whether that's college, a career, or military service. This monthly newsletter will help keep you on track throughout junior year!

Junior Year Timeline – Fall Focus

- Start exploring college and career options in Naviance
 - Plan to take the SAT or ACT starting February/March
 - Sign up for college rep visits at Moon
 - Begin test prep if planning to take standardized tests
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College Fairs in October

College fairs are a great way to explore your options, meet reps, and gather information.

North Pittsburgh College Fair

 LaRoche University |  Monday, Oct. 6 |  6–8 PM

South Pittsburgh College Fair

 Bethel Park High School |  Tuesday, Oct. 7

West Pittsburgh College Fair

 RMU UPMC Complex |  Wednesday, Oct. 8 |  6–8 PM

→ Register for a barcode at StriveFair.com

HBCU College Fair

-  August Wilson African American Cultural Center
-  Thursday, Oct. 9 (During school day)
-  Permission slips due by **Oct. 6**

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?
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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 Info Events in Pittsburgh

[University of Chicago Visit](#)

 Sewickley Academy |  Oct. 16 |  7 PM

[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

ASVAB Testing

 **Wednesday, November 5**

✓ Great for military-bound students or general career exploration

 [Register here](#)

Scholarships

 Visit Naviance → Colleges → Scholarships & Money → Scholarship List

✨ Favorite search sites:

- [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
 - [goingmerry.com](https://www.goingmerry.com)
 - [Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarships](#)
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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

College Campus Visits – What to Ask

When visiting colleges, ask:

- ✓ What's the 4-year graduation rate?
 - ✓ What's the retention rate for sophomores?
 - ✓ What's the campus culture like?
 - ✓ What academic support is available?
 - ✓ What are your most unique majors?
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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
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ACT/SAT Test Prep Options

- **Khan Academy** (FREE SAT prep): [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)
- **ACT Academy** (FREE ACT prep): [academy.act.org](https://www.act.org)
- **Penn State Beaver** – In-person SAT classes: <https://beaver.psu.edu/ce/youth/sat>
Classes begin Oct. 18.
- **3RPrep** – Virtual & in-person options: <https://www.3rprep.com/>
- **Goldstein Test Prep** – SAT/ACT tutoring (in-person & virtual)
 -  412-874-7645 | Website: [goldsteintestprep.com](https://www.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
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NCAA Info

-  Planning to play D1 or D2 college sports?
 -  Register at www.eligibilitycenter.org
 -  Transcripts sent at the end of the year
 -  Send test scores directly from College Board or ACT
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Managing College Emails

-  Tips to stay organized:
 1. Create a separate email for college communication
 2. Set up folders to organize by interest level
 3. Check regularly and delete what you don't need
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Summer Programs – Apply Early!

Looking for enrichment opportunities next summer? These **prestigious programs** are ideal for current sophomores and juniors. Click on each program below to learn more and apply directly through their websites.

◆ **Pennsylvania-Based Enrichment Programs**

- **PA School for Excellence in Agricultural Studies** (Penn State)
 - **Health Careers Scholars Academy** (University of Pittsburgh)
 - [Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive](#) (Lehigh University)
 - [Governor's School for the Sciences](#) (Carnegie Mellon University)
 - [Governor's School for Global & International Studies](#) (University of Pittsburgh)
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Helpful Resources

-  [Georgia Tech Admission Blog](#) – Insightful, funny, and full of great advice
 -  [College Essay Guy](#) – Free guides, essay tips, and more
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Engineering Opportunities

- [Carnegie Mellon University](#) offers programs for all ages
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If you have questions or need support, don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to helping you and your student make informed and confident post-secondary decisions this year!