🌼 Junior Newsletter | November 2025

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Hi Juniors and Families - My name is Julie Sitko, and I'm the College and Career Counselor at Moon Area High School. This newsletter is your monthly guide to post-secondary planning—from college searches to test prep and everything in between. I'm here to support you through the process, so please don't hesitate to reach out with questions!

🎓 Fall Planning Timeline for Juniors

- Begin exploring colleges and careers using Naviance
- Start test prep if you're planning to take the SAT or ACT
- PSAT results were made available in your child's college board account on Oct. 17
- Students can use Khan Academy for free SAT prep
- Free ACT prep is available at academy.act.org
- Consider registering for the SAT or ACT in the winter (Feb/March)
- Transcripts (from the beginning of junior year) are available in the Portfolio section of Skyward—review and save a copy!

🎓 Scholarships

Log in to Naviance → Colleges → Scholarships & Money → Scholarship Search for current listings. New scholarships are posted regularly!

Favorite Scholarship Sites:

- Fastweb
- Going Merry
- Pittsburgh Foundation

Notable Scholarships for Juniors:

- **Hamilton Scholars Award** – Leadership, mentoring, and a $500 scholarship (app opens in December)
- **Calvin Coolidge Scholarship** – Full-ride; deadline: Dec. 11, 2024
- **Horatio Alger Scholarship** – For students who have overcome adversity
- **QuestBridge College Prep** – For high-achieving, low-income students

College Affordability Resources:

- My Smart Borrowing
- College Costs

🏫 College Visits – What to Ask

- Meet with faculty in your child's intended major
- Ask about 4-year vs. 6-year graduation rates
- Inquire about the sophomore retention rate
- Consider academic challenge and support services
- Research the middle 50% GPA and test scores of admitted students

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📝 ACT & SAT Testing

- **SAT**: collegeboard.org
- **ACT**: act.org

  Test dates are posted in the Class of 2027 Teams page and on the Counseling Center website.

✅ *Fee waivers are available for students on free/reduced lunch—see your school counselor or Ms. Sitko.*

📌 **Test Optional Reminder:** Many colleges are test optional for Class of 2027, including for scholarships. Be strategic—if test scores don't help your application, you may not need to submit them.

🔗 Check policies: FairTest – Test Optional Colleges

📚 ACT/SAT Test Prep Options

- **Khan Academy** (FREE SAT prep)
- **ACT Academy** (FREE ACT prep)
- **Penn State Beaver** – In-person SAT classes
- **3RPrep** – Virtual & in-person options
- **Goldstein Test Prep** – SAT/ACT tutoring (in-person & virtual)

🏅 NCAA Eligibility (Div I & II Athletes)

✅ Register at: eligibilitycenter.org

📄 Request official transcripts via Naviance

📤 Send test scores directly from ACT/SAT websites

📚 Review NCAA-approved courses (Page 18 of Program of Studies)

⚠️ Not required for Division III or NAIA schools

📬 Managing College Emails

Create a separate email address just for college info!

✅ Filter and organize messages

✅ Check regularly

✅ Avoid being overwhelmed and missing key opportunities

📖 Recommended Resources

- **Georgia Tech Admission Blog** – Insightful, funny, and helpful
  🔗 Georgia Tech Blog
- **College Essay Guy** – Great college prep content + free essay tools
  🔗 collegeessayguy.com

🌞 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** at Penn State
- **Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive** at Lehigh University
- **Governor's School for the Sciences** at Carnegie Mellon University
- **Governor's School for Global & International Studies** at University of Pittsburgh

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Please reach out if you have any questions—I'm here to help every step of the way!