January 16, 2026

Good afternoon! Since I am now sharing the update in both google doc and pdf format, you will see Quick Links that can take you directly to the section of interest. I am also going to post the updates each week and historical to Xello and the School Counseling Website. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the links. This week, you will find information on many topics including in-school activities, including LAST CHANCE sign up for the NACAC college fair, information on AW Beattie applications, and Slippery Rock is offering an Instant Decision Day; several NEW scholarship opportunities and updated February scholarships on Goingmerry.com; several out of school opportunities, and summer experiences, including pre-college programs and Carnegie Mellon opportunities.

Quick Links:

In School Activities
Scholarship
Scholarship Webinar
Out of School Activities
Summer Activities

In School Activities

Pittsburgh NACAC College Fair - LAST day to sign up!
Wednesday, January 28th, 2025
9:15am - 1:30pm
Lunch on site!
You MUST complete the registration link below to attend this fair.
Registrations Due NO LATER than Friday, January 17th, 2026; Parent Permission Forms Due NO LATER than Friday, January 23rd, 2026.
Registration Link - you MUST register to attend
Parent Permission Form - these will also be distributed in class and available in the counseling office

AW Beattie Application and Application Night
The AW Beattie Application is now open.
AW Application Information Link as and Website
AW Beattie Website
Important Dates:
Application Night - February 10, 2026, 6:30pm - 8:00pm - meet with a representative from AW Beattie and get assistance with your application.

Open House - Thursday, March 5th - 5:30pm - 8:00pm. AW Beattie is holding an open house - come and see the many programs and opportunities available at AW Beattie - Open House Flyer
See Dr. Maloney or Mrs. Levis with any questions.

Instant Decision Day - Slippery Rock University
Date: Friday, February 12, 2026
Time: 11:00 - 11:30 - into lunch if needed
To save time, complete these items
Sign up for the event, using this link: https://forms.gle/oLc92S5o5zT4PyYf6
Go to: https://admission.sru.edu/apply/
Register a NEW Account as a First Year, First Time Student and complete the application - this takes about 15 minutes - easy application
You DO NOT need to pay the application fee, it will be waived during the instant decision day
Let Dr. Maloney know if you need assistance or have any questions.

Scholarships

Scholarships are updated in Xello under College Planning, then scholarships. Also, all GoingMerry scholarships are listed on the Avonworth High School Counseling website: https://ahs.avonworth.k12.pa.us/counseling-office
February Going Merry Scholarship Link

Youth Mental Health Leadership Essay - Last Chance - DUE TODAY!
NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania is accepting submissions for our 2026 Youth Mental Health Leadership Award Essay Contest. The winner will be recognized during our 2026 Youth Mental Health Conference on Friday, Feb. 6, in Pittsburgh. The award recognizes the passion and courage of young leaders who are committed to fighting the stigma of mental health conditions, providing a safe community for peers to share their own mental health experiences, and empowering peers through education. To be eligible for the Youth Mental Health Leadership Award, the nominee must:

- be between the ages of 13-21
- reside in Pennsylvania
- have parental permission to submit their essay

The winner will receive a $1,000 scholarship and a commemorative award. **The essay and completed submission/consent form must be submitted by Friday, January 16.**
Submission and Application Link

Bob Williams Memorial Scholarship
THIS IS A NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP (School Year 2025-26) The Bob Williams Memorial Rotary Scholarship Program exists for high school seniors or non-traditional students. This program will award scholarships (up to $5,000 for an academic year) to those candidates chosen by the Williams Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship will be paid to the educational institution. Attached you will find a list of requirements and rules. Failure to adhere to our rules or furnish the required application components will render the submitted application disqualified.
Scholarship Link
Deadline: February 28, 2025

American Legion Awards
Each year the American Legion of Allegheny County presents awards to young people for outstanding performance and excellence in academics, athletics, and music. The awardees are recognized at our annual Youth Achievement Dinner. This year's event will be held Sunday, April 26, 2026 at SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial, PA.
Academic Application
Athletic Application
Music Application
Deadline: March 2, 2026

Student View Scholarship Program
The 2026 Student-View Scholarship Program is offering over $13,000 worth of scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend a four year college, community/junior college or career school.
Informational Flyer
www.student-view.com
Deadline: April 23, 2026

Abbott and Fenner Scholarship Program
Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants are pleased to be able to continue with our scholarship program for the 20th year.
We will be awarding $1,000 to the winner(s) each year.
Scholarship Deadline - June 10, 2026.
Application Process
Students will submit an essay on the topic that appears on the scholarship page of our web site: https://abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.php
Full details are available on our site.

Scholarship Webinar

Scholarship Owl
Topic: **Insider Strategies that Boost Your Scholarship Chances**
Date & Time: Thursday, January 22, 2026 - 7pm ET
With college application season completed for most students, it's time for students to dive-in on scholarship applications! That's why, this month's webinar topic will be of great interest to students, parents and counselors.
During this webinar, students will:

- Find out why some students are more successful than others at earning scholarships
- Learn how to better manage their time so they can apply for more scholarships, more often
- Discover how to select scholarships they'll have the greatest chance of winning
- Learn the fastest, easiest ways to boost their scholarship chances
- Find out what NOT to do when applying for scholarships
- Learn tips and strategies to remember
- Participate in a live Q&A to get their questions answered

Registration Link

Out of School Activities

The BNY Early College Program is open to all 9th-12th grade high school students who reside in Allegheny County. Through this program, students can take Business, Computer Information Technology or Accounting courses for FREE, yes you read that right. All tuition, fees and books are funded by a generous grant from the BNY Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Students also earn a stipend upon successful completion of their courses (A = $200.00, B = $150.00 and C = $100.00). We encourage students to participate in this program because they can earn college credits for free (qualify for transferable credits), explore subject areas for possible future careers, learn new and enhanced skills necessary for college course work and build momentum for life after high school. Although the Spring semester has already begun, Summer registration opens on February 2nd, making this a perfect time to introduce the program to students who may be interested in enrolling this summer or planning ahead for future semesters. We are happy to offer in-person or virtual presentations for your students to walk them through the program, discuss eligibility, and answer any questions they may have. If this is something your students would benefit from, we would love to connect.

Let's Ride - Penn State University
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026

The free event welcomes students in celebration of Black History Month with a variety of multicultural student organizations, college-prep activities, an academic resource fair, and a campus tour. Meals and transportation provided!
RSVP Link
Informational Flyer

Pittsburgh Job Corps Applications
Pittsburgh Job Corps Center continues to be open and currently accepting new student applications. Job Corps is a free career training and education program that helps young adults gain the skills they need for successful employment, continued education, and independence.
Applying is simple and can be done online:

- Visit www.jobcorps.gov
- Click on "Apply"
- Create an account and complete the online application

An admissions counselor will follow up to guide the applicant through the next steps
Admissions counselors are also available to:

- Schedule information tables at you location or event
- Provide presentations to groups of potential students, their families, and/or staff members who want to learn more about the program
- Arrange tours of our campus in Highland Park for groups or individuals

These opportunities are a great way to help students and community members learn more about Job Corps and the benefits of enrollment.
For more information or to connect with an admissions counselor, please call 412-441-8665.

Summer Activities

The Hillman Academy
The Hillman Academy provides authentic and mentored research and academic development experiences to a diverse group of high school students. The program is full time over a 7-week span in the summer. Students are placed in individual faculty member's labs to work on a project they design with them or someone in their lab (grad student/postdoc). The program is free to all local-students, and we have a limited number of $2400 stipends, $300 food vouchers, and bus passes for students based on financial need. Applications from students of all backgrounds who are over the age of 15 and are interested in STEM, biomedicine, computer science, and/or research are encouraged to apply.
Program details:

- Application Deadline: Feb. 15th at 11:59 PM
- Program Dates: June 15 – July 31

- Location: Spread across Pitt and UPMC Campuses plus remote options for computational projects

More Information can be found:

1. Website - https://hillmanacademy.upmc.com/
2. Application - https://hillmanacademy.smapply.io/prog/2026_hillman_academy/
3. Informational Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw6RrEuX3ls&t=7s
4. ASL Promotional Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1TL1lyUt2w
5. Flyer to print - https://hillmanacademy.upmc.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/11/2026-Hillman-Academy-Flier-reduced.pdf

Carnegie Mellon - Pre-College Program

This is a reminder that the Early Deadline for Carnegie Mellon's Pre-College Programs is February 1, 11:59pm EST. This deadline is required for scholarship consideration, as well as for AI Scholars, CS Scholars, Summer Academy for Math and Science (SAMS), and international applicants. Students can apply here. Please share this email with any student you think might be interested.

Healthcare Professional High School Mentoring Program

2025-2026 - Program Recordings

November 2025: Healthcare Administrator

Meeting Recording: Link

December 2025: Nursing/Nursing Administrator

Meeting Recording: Link

January 2026: Health Science/Genetic Counseling

Meeting Recording: Link

Naval Academy - Summer Seminar

For Students Entering the 12th Grade

Summer Seminar kick-starts your Naval Academy application by giving you a taste of life at the Academy. For one week in June, you will experience first-class academic, athletic and professional training while building lifelong friendships with campers from all over the world.

2026 Session Dates

Summer Seminar (rising 12th graders)

Session 1 (Saturday - Thursday): May 30 - June 4, 2026

Session 2 (Saturday - Thursday): June 6 - June 11, 2026

Session 3 (Saturday - Thursday): June 13 - June 18, 2026

Application Link

Naval Academy - Summer STEM
Science Technology
Engineering and Math
For Students Entering 9th – 11th Grade
Summer STEM at the Naval Academy is a vibrant week of problem solving, exploratory learning, critical thinking, and team building for rising 9th-11th graders interested in a future in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.
2026 Session Dates
Summer STEM (rising 9th-11th graders)
Session 1 (Monday - Saturday): June 1 - 6, 2026
Session 2 (Monday - Saturday): June 8 - 13, 2026
Session 3 (Monday - Friday): June 15 -19, 2026 (please note this session runs during a Federal holiday)
Application Link

Youth Founders Lab
Spend your summer at the Young Founders Lab working with startup founders, Harvard and Stanford MBAs, and Y-Combinator alumni to build and launch your own venture.

1. Individual Program (12 weeks sessions): 1:1 mentorship through idea discovery, prototyping, and launch. Past students have built sleep-support apps, pet-tracking wearables, and volunteer-matching nonprofits.
2. Group Program (3-week bootcamp): Team-based incubator where students run market research, design revenue models, and build pitch decks for founder feedback.

Students can apply to both programs here, sign up to attend an info session here, or meet with the managing director here.

S.C.O.P.E - Penn State University
This is a friendly reminder that the S.C.O.P.E. application deadline is quickly approaching. The application due date (postmark date) is January 26th, 2026.
Please note the dates for the S.C.O.P.E. program have changed and will run from July 6th, 2026, to July 31st, 2026. Dates have been updated in our application online.
Applications, along with additional recommendation and nomination forms may be downloaded from our website:
https://ed.psu.edu/about/deans-office/office-education-and-social-equity/summer-college-opportunity-program-education.
For further information about the program, application procedures, or submission deadlines, do not hesitate to contact our office at oese-coe@psu.edu.

Terp Young Scholars - University of Maryland
Terp Young Scholars invites you to a transformative pre-college experience at the University of Maryland. From July 13 to 31, 2026, high school students come together to discover exciting new fields, earn three university credits, and explore the University of Maryland. In-person and online course options are available for rising sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduating seniors.
Information Link

Project Uplift - UNC Chapel Hill
On behalf of the Carolina Higher Education Opportunity Programs (CHEOP) office, we're excited to announce that the application for Project Uplift and Uplift Plus 2026 is now open!
Informational Flyer

Engineering Outreach Events - Carnegie Mellon
Summer Engineering Experience - bookmark!
The Summer Engineering Experience (SEE) is a week-long summer experience for rising 8th through 11th graders who are interested in math and science. SEE gives students hands-on experience in different forms of engineering.
Website Link

Perry Outreach
The Perry Outreach Program is a free, one-day, hands-on experience to encourage youth to pursue careers in medicine and engineering. Students will hear from leaders in these fields and try it for themselves by performing mock orthopaedic surgeries and biomechanics experiments.
Website Link

Have a great weekend and let's go Lopes!

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