December 19. 2025

Sorry for the delay on the update - Alma had a system update which interfered with last week's email.

Good afternoon! This week, you will find information on many topics including in-school activities, including a sign up for juniors interested in attending the Pittsburgh College Fair in January; several scholarship opportunities; testing information for both SAT and ACT; a testing prep opportunity; out of school opportunities, and several summer experiences. In observance of the holiday season, there will be no update for the next two weeks. Look for the first update of 2026 on January 9, 2026.

In School Activities

Pittsburgh NACAC College Fair
Wednesday, January 28th, 2026
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
Parent Permission Form

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

Going Merry January Scholarships
Attached is a Google Sheet with a long list of scholarships that are due in January 2026.
Go to goingmerry.com to make an account and start applying for scholarships.
Link to Google Sheet

Bert Cameron Memorial Scholarship - Kades Margolis
Graduating High School Seniors having at least one parent who is
a member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA)
WESTERN REGION planning to pursue a career in Pennsylvania
Public Education encouraged to apply.*
Due Date: February 10, 2026
Information Flyer

PAF 2026 - Chapter Scholarship

The PAF Chapter Scholarship is designed for high school student athletes with intentions to attend a 2-year or 4-year college/university. The $3,000.00 scholarship rewards high school student athletes for their non-athletic achievements and assists them in achieving their academic career goals. Applicants are not required to compete in collegiate athletics to receive this scholarship.

Eligibility:

1.Overall High School Grade Point Average of 2.0 or better;
2.Must be a high school senior on track to graduate Spring 2026;
3.Acceptance into a two-year or four-year college or university;
4.Nominated by high school coach;
5.Participated at the varsity level in athletics for at least one year;
6.Has not accepted a full scholarship award or grant (athletic or academic);
7.Is not the son or daughter of a current or former NFL Player.

Scholarship Deadline February 12, 2026

Need help or have questions?

Please contact the Chapter Scholarship Chairman where you plan to apply, or reach out to the Professional Athletes Foundation representative, Moriah Terry, at moriah.terry@nflpa.com or (202) 756-9329

Application Link: 2026 - NFLPA PAF Chapter Scholarship Application

Important Application Details:

- All former player chapters are listed on the application.
- Students must select the specific city of the former player chapter to be considered for that chapter's scholarship in their area. Students should only apply to the chapter that serves their city.
- Students should gather the following documents before starting the application:
    1. Essay
    2. High School Unofficial Transcript
    3. Coach's Nomination Letter
- Applications cannot be submitted without these three documents.
- Students are encouraged to review the full application first to understand eligibility requirements and materials needed.

2026 Men's Scholarship Application

The scholarship is designed to identify and reward outstanding high school seniors who have demonstrated an ability to excel in the fields of academics, extra-curricular school activities and community involvement. It is available to any graduating senior male who is enrolling in a four-year undergraduate college program that commences in the fall of 2026. Men are choosing paths other than college. In an attempt to counter this trend

and encourage young men to pursue postsecondary education, the Men's College Scholarship Program was launched in 2022, with college-bound males also receiving funds in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
Application Link
Due: April 1, 2026 @ 11:59pm ET
Senior Males

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services DREAM-INNOVATE-GROW College Scholarship application link: https://www.thepreferredrealty.com/scholarship/
Please note that all applications are due before Monday, March 2, 2026 at 3pm.
Application Link
Seniors planning to attend college or trade school

Berkshire Hathaway Scholarship Webinar
Added bonus, here is a recorded zoom link from a scholarship webinar. Many of the local school districts have added this video to their school and/or counselor websites, as it contains various best practices, look-fors, and other factors to consider when completing any scholarship application (not just ours) as seen through a developer/reader's lens.
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/oFUog1s5gaVfaMU5zjNTrRU2-LRaMuUbS8-aV-d9mW70g20spYbd3x_9acDtb21g.fHFkgXCQQEVZpzzD?startTime=1639526406000

Medtronic Spark Scholarship Application - Empowering Future Health Tech Leaders
Medtronic Spark is a bold 10-year initiative to empower the next generation of health tech leaders. The Medtronic Spark Scholarship is a global program designed to support students from low-income households who are pursuing careers in health technology and related fields.
Each year, up to 100 new scholarships will be awarded to talented students globally.
Key benefits of the Medtronic Spark Scholarship include:

Financial support for education expenses, renewable for up to four years

Career-building experiences, including mentorship, coaching, and networking opportunities

Emergency funding to help students overcome unexpected financial hardships

The scholarship is open to students pursuing undergraduate degrees and job-ready credentials in health tech and healthcare-related fields. Applicants must demonstrate academic potential and leadership capabilities and attend educational programs in one of the eligible locations.
Applications are now open with a deadline of January 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM Central Time (US).

To learn more about eligibility, benefits, and how to apply, visit our website - https://www.iie.org/medtronicsparkscholarship.
Medtronic Spark Scholarship
Institute of International Education
One World Trade Center, 36th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Medtronicsparkscholarship@iie.org
Seniors entering the Healthcare field

TribLIVE scholarship program
The Jim Borden Memorial Scholarship is open to students currently attending or planning to attend a four-year college or university with a major in Journalism, English Writing or Communication with financial assistance of
up to $7500 per year for up to four years.

The Scholarship for Diversity in Media will award a
student who is
culturally, ethnically or racially diverse and attending or planning to attend a four-year college or university with a major in Journalism, Communication, or English Writing with financial assistance of
up to $7500 per year for up to four years.

The Business, Marketing and Technology Scholarship is open to students currently attending or planning to attend a four-year college or university with a major in Business, Marketing, Computer Science, or Information Technology with financial assistance of
up to $7500 per year for up to four years.

All 3 scholarships require an annual internship with Trib Total Media for up to 4 years and, upon graduation, include an
offer for full-time employment.
Deadline to apply is January 16, 2026.

Testing Prep
Juniors - What's your testing plan?
Step-by-Step SAT Registration:

- Go to the Official SAT Website:
  https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines
- Create a College Board Account:
  If you don't already have one, click "Sign Up." Use your legal name and accurate

information—it must match your ID. Use a personal email, DO NOT use your Lopes email. You most likely created a college board account when you viewed your PSAT scores. Use that same account.

- Start Your Registration:
  Once logged in, click "Register for the SAT" and follow the prompts.
- Choose Your Test Date and Location:
  - Pick from available dates and nearby test centers.
  - Be sure to choose a location that works for you!
- Upload a Photo:
  You'll need a clear headshot (similar to a school photo). Make sure it meets the College Board's photo requirements.
- Pay the Registration Fee:
  - The SAT costs $60 (as of 2025).
  - Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch—ask your School Counselor!
- Print Your Admission Ticket:
  After registration, print your admission ticket and keep it safe—you'll need it on test day!

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	Apr. 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

Step-by-Step ACT Registration Guide:

- Go to the Official ACT Website:
  www.act.org
- Create an ACT Web Account:
  - Click "Register for the ACT" and then "Create Account" if you're new. Be sure to use a personal email and NOT your Lopes email. Use your legal name and accurate personal info—this must match your photo ID.

- Begin the Registration Process:
  Follow the step-by-step prompts to complete your personal info, academic background, and college interests.
- Choose Your Test Date and Center:
  - Select from upcoming test dates and nearby test centers.
  - Register early to get your preferred location!
- Decide If You Want the ACT With Writing:
  - The Writing section is optional—but some colleges require it, so double-check their admissions requirements.
- Upload a Photo:
  You'll need a clear photo of yourself that meets ACT guidelines (headshot, no filters, plain background).
- Pay the Registration Fee:
  - ACT (no writing): $68.00
  - ACT with writing: $93.00
  - Fee waivers are available—see your School Counselor if you qualify for free/reduced lunch or need financial help.
- Print Your Admission Ticket:
  After registering, print and save your admission ticket—you must bring it on test day!
- Upcoming Deadlines & ACT Dates:
  Check act.org regularly—registration deadlines are usually about a month before the test date.
- Register here for ACT dates.

Test Prep Information

SAT Prep Course - PSU Beaver

Penn State's SAT prep course teaches you techniques and strategies to help you do your best on the newly designed digital exam. By investing in SAT practice, you're making a commitment to your college, career, and life success.

Experienced instructors will guide students through:

- Effective tips and strategies for each SAT section, including Reading and Writing, Language, and Math.
- Practice with official SAT exams that simulate real test conditions to help measure improvement.
- Weighing the pros and cons of guessing on questions.
- Techniques to save time and answer questions more quickly and accurately.
- Understanding the SAT scoring system and learning how to calculate scores.

- Using online tools and practice problems from Khan Academy® and Bluebook to boost skills and confidence.

January Start

- Dates: Saturdays, January 24, 2026 - February 28, 2026 (Snow Day March 7, 2026)
- Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Cost: $329 textbook included
- Location: Penn State Beaver
- National Test Date: March 14, 2026 - must register separately and not included in price of prep course.
- Spring SAT Registration

March Start

- Dates: Saturdays, March 21, 2026 - April 25, 2026
- Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Cost: $329 textbook included
- Location: Penn State Beaver
- National Test Date: May 2, 2026 - must register separately and not included in price of prep course.
- Spring SAT Registration

April Start

- Dates: Saturdays, April 25, 2026 - May 30, 2026
- Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Cost: $329 textbook included
- Location: Penn State Beaver
- National Test Date: June 6, 2026 - must register separately and not included in price of prep course.
- Spring SAT Registration

*Exam Info

Registration for the National SAT exam is not included in the SAT Review Course. You must register for the exam at the College Board website through the link below.

- Register for the National SAT Exam

Information Flyer

Out of School Opportunities

Pittsburgh NACAC College Fair

Wednesday, January 28th, 2025

6:00pm - 8:15pm

Parents and students can attend this fair together in the evening.

Information and Registration Link

Summer Opportunities

Luminari - I want to be an Ambassador

Program Details
Dates: June 9-17, 2026
(June 9-12 in Pittsburgh)
(June 15-17 in Washington DC)
Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm (excluding weekends)
Target Audience: Rising 8th – 12th graders
Location: Winchester Thurston Upper School,
555 Morewood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
and various embassies and historical sites in Washington DC
Tuition: $895.00 ($870.00, if application is submitted or postmarked before May 1)
Tuition is not refundable.
Scholarship opportunity for "I want to be an Ambassador" summer camp taking place this upcoming summer in Pittsburgh (June 9-12) and Washington DC (June 15-17). This highly competitive award has been won by Avonworth students in the past (in 2017 and 2023).
https://www.luminari.org/teens-learn-the-vital-art-of-diplomacy/
One helpful hint for your students...the essay should come from a PERSONAL place. Not a technical or even "academic" essay. We want to know what it is about diplomacy and political justice/science affects and interests students on a personal level.

Luminari - Music Makers

Program Details
Dates: July 6-10, 2026
Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Target Audience: Rising 8th – 12th graders
Location: The Vault Recording Studio,
6500 Grand Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15225
Tuition: $395.00 ($370.00, if application is submitted or postmarked before May 1)
Tuition is not refundable.
https://www.luminari.org/teens-learn-from-leaders-in-the-music-industry/

Luminari - Camp Delicious

Program Details
Dates: June 22-26, 2026
Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Target Audience: Rising 8th – 12th graders
Location: First United Methodist Church
5401 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Tuition: $425.00 ($400.00, if application is submitted or postmarked before May 1)
Tuition is not refundable.
https://www.luminari.org/teens-gain-skills-and-confidence-in-the-kitchen/

Bowling Green University
It's time to celebrate – BGSU Academic Summer Camps are back for Summer 2026!
It might feel pretty wintry outside, but we are already dreaming of summer at Bowling Green! We've got so many amazing opportunities for you to share with your pre-college students –some brand new – whether they're budding writers, future cyber sleuths, prospective nurses or something else fantastic!
We'll be ready to chat through exploring all the great things happening at BGSU during the summer of 2026, so reach out with questions!
Informational Link

Young Founders Lab - Applications for our Summer programs are now open!
Summer Program Merit Scholarships will be reviewed now through January 15th, 2026!
Summer I 2026 Application Deadline: Early Applications due January 15th for Merit Consideration. Final Deadline February 15th.
Group Program Start Date: May 18th - June 6th, 3pm-6pm IST (these dates align with summer holiday in India and may be best suitable for students in South Asia)
Individual Program Start Date: May 18th
Summer II 2026 Application Deadline: Early Applications due January 15th for Merit Consideration. Final Deadline March 15th.
Group Program Start Date: June 8th - June 27th, 9am-12pm PST
Individual Program Start Date: June 8th
Summer III 2026 Application Deadline: Early Applications due January 15th for Merit Consideration. Final Deadline April 15th.
Group Program Start Date: July 6th - July 25th, 9am-12pm PST
Individual Program Start Date: July 6th
Students may also opt to begin the Individual Program at a time that works best for their schedule. Please select "Customized Start Date" as the cohort in the application below.
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The Young Founders Lab is a Harvard and Stanford alumni-founded startup incubator for high school students looking to launch their own business or non-profit organization. We offer a group program during the summer and a one-on-one individual program throughout the school year.
During the Individual Program, students work over the course of 12 weeks with seasoned mentors from a wide range of industries to develop and launch their own impactful initiatives, building on best practices drawn from accelerators like Y-Combinator and honed by Stanford, Harvard, and Oxford alumni. The group program

is a 3-week intensive that meets every day, Monday-Friday. Students work in teams to ideate, build, and launch their own original venture with expert mentors guiding them each step of the way.
The cost of the Individual Program is $3990.
The cost of the Summer Group Program is $3490.
Eligibility: all students from grade 9 through grade 12 (year 13 UK system equivalent) are eligible to apply.
As this is a rigorous program with limited spots, the application process includes an interview for short-listed candidates. If you are conditionally accepted after the interview, you will be asked to make a deposit of 200 USD, which will then go towards your tuition fee or will be reimbursed if there is not an appropriate mentor match.
Informational Link

Looking for something in particular? Please reach out to Dr. Maloney with requests for opportunities or experiences. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Enjoy the well-deserved break!

Dr. Lisa Maloney
Avonworth School District
Future-Ready Coordinator
Email: lmaloney@avonworth.k12.pa.us
Office: 412-366-6360 x 1617
Counseling Office Website
Future Ready Hub
Make an Appt. with Dr. Maloney