

Moon Area High School – Seniors January Newsletter

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Happy New Year!

Hello from the Counseling Center! My role is to advise and support students and families in the college search, help identify “best fit” colleges, and assist students in realizing post-secondary goals. This newsletter will help seniors stay on track for the second half of the school year.

Winter – Post-Secondary Timeline for Seniors

Transcripts & Semester Grades

- Updated grades will appear after the first semester. GPA updates only after completion of semester or full-year courses
- Unofficial transcripts can be downloaded from Skyward for college applications or scholarships.
- Updated transcripts will be uploaded to the **Portfolio section of Skyward** around **January 26, 2026**

College Applications

- Ensure applications are complete; check portals for missing items
- Some schools may request **mid-year grades**; only submit if required

Accepted Student Programs

- Attend events hosted by colleges where students were accepted. Virtual or in-person; check school websites.

Financial Aid & Award Letters

- Review offers carefully before making a decision. Contact financial aid offices for clarification or contact me for help interpreting awards.

College Fit Considerations

- Academics, social life, distance from home, and affordability are all important!

Selective Service (Males 18+)

- Registration is required: <http://www.sss.gov>
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Requesting Mid-Year Transcripts

Some colleges require mid-year transcripts including:

- Grades 9–11
- Semester grades for senior year
- Cumulative GPA (updated for completed semester courses only)

Available around January 26, 2026

Request Instructions:

1. After January 16, go to the Seniors 2026 Teams page.
 2. Click the Mid-Year Transcript Request tab (on phones, under APPS).
 3. Complete the 2-question form. List all schools needing the transcript in one request.
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Check Your Email & College Portals

- Important updates on application status, scholarships, and SRAR completion are sent here.
 - Missing these emails can delay your application.
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✓ **Completing Applications & Declining Schools**

- If no longer interested in a school: email or call them to let them know.
- Notify schools if accepted elsewhere. This helps other students and frees up scholarships.

💰 **Financial Aid**

FAFSA IS OPEN!

Many colleges require students to submit the FAFSA, even if they may not qualify for need-based aid. Some colleges will require students to also complete the CSS Profile. You **ONLY** need to do the CSS Profile if prompted by the college.

Before completing the FAFSA:

- **FAFSA:** Create an FSA ID for both student and parent: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- **Use personal email**, not Moon email, for FSA ID.
- **Net Price Calculator:** Estimate college costs using online tools on each school's financial aid page.

Tools & Resources

- Try a Net Price Calculator on college websites for cost estimates.
- Great resources:
 - www.mysmartborrowing.com

🎓 **Scholarships & Resources**

Helpful Scholarship Search Sites:

- www.goingmerry.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarshipamerica.org
- www.finaid.org
- [Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarships](#)

Featured Scholarships:

- **PACAC Scholarship** – for seniors with 3.0+ GPA
📅 Deadline: Feb. 2, 2026 | Awards: \$1,000–\$1,500
- **Hermine Solt Student Scholarship** – \$500, PA residents, business-related fields
- **Moon Area High School local scholarships** – check **Naviance & Teams page**

Transcripts for Scholarships:

- Most can use unofficial transcripts from Skyward.
- If official transcript required, contact **Ms. Monyak**: mmonyak@moonarea.net

LECOM Visit in January

A representative from **LECOM (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine)** will be visiting MAHS to share information about their programs in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and health sciences. Students interested in healthcare careers are encouraged to stop by, ask questions, and learn more about early acceptance opportunities. Students will also participate in a soap carving – to teach students about tooth anatomy, and basic carving skills used by dentists.

- **Date:** January 13
 - **Time:** 2nd period
 - **Location:** Room 112
 - All grade levels are welcome -sign up in Naviance under “What’s New”
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NCAA Eligibility

- Division I & II athletes: submit **official transcript** and **test scores**.
 - Must follow NCAA-approved course requirements (see Program of Studies, page 6).
 - Division III & NAIA do not require NCAA registration.
 - Check: www.eligibilitycenter.org
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Summer Opportunities

Magee-Womens Research Institute 2025 Summer Internship

- High school juniors & seniors
- 4-week program (160 hours) in biomedical research
- Hands-on research projects & Lunch & Learn sessions
- Presentation at end of program
- **Deadline:** February 7, 2025