March 5, 2026

Good afternoon and welcome to this early edition of the Future Ready Update. A reminder that next week's update will be sent on Thursday, March 12th. This week, you will find information on many topics including an important message regarding the scholarship site, "Going Merry", which is shutting down on March 6th and a virtual career fair; several field trip opportunities and save the date for two mini-career fairs, and sign ups for ASVAB testing in April; several new scholarship opportunities, including a local scholarship *"Hannah's Heart"*; PHEAA financial aid updates; out of school opportunities, including two military academy information sessions; summer activities, including programs at Point Park University, Penn State Beaver and others; a camp counselor opportunity with Sewickley YMCA for graduating seniors, and a volunteer opportunity at *Chase the Antelope* on Saturday, April 25th.

Quick Links:

In School Activities
Financial Aid
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Attention Seniors! Going Merry Shutdown

Going Merry will shut down at the end of March. Please complete any scholarship applications with upcoming deadlines by **March 5, 2026**, as applications will close at that time. Student and counselor data, including personal information, will be securely handled as part of this transition. If you have questions, please contact support@goingmerry.com.

Virtual College Fair

You and your students are invited to the NACAC Virtual College Fair happening on Sunday, March 15 from 1- 6 p.m. ET. The virtual fair provides students with the wonderful chance to connect with hundreds of colleges and universities, all from the comfort of their home. Plus, it is completely free.
Registration Link

In School Activities

Field Trip(s)

Pittsburgh NACAC College Fair - Rescheduled!
Tuesday, March 24th, 2026
9:15am - 1:30pm
Lunch on site!
You MUST complete the registration link below to attend this fair. Parent Permission forms MUST be signed!
Registration Link - you MUST register by Friday, March 20th to attend - **NEW registrations only.**
Parent Permission Form - Due Friday, March 20th, 2026 - **ALL students**

Save the Date! - Future Ready Mini-Career Fairs
Mini Career Fair #1
Mini-career fair focused on careers in the Health and Medicine Pathway. Details and sign up link are below.
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm (set up at 10:15am)
Location: Avonworth High School
304 Joseph's Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
If any parents/guardians or community members representing Health and Medicine careers would like to exhibit, please use the registration link below.
Registration Link

Mini-Career Fair #2
Mini-career fair focused on careers in Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trades. Details and sign up link are below.
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm (set up at 10:15am)
Location: Avonworth High School
304 Joseph's Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
If any parents/guardians or community members representing Advanced Manufacturing and/or Skilled Trades careers would like to exhibit, please use the registration link below.
Registration Link

ASVAB Testing
Taking the **ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a key step for students to identify their natural strengths and explore a wide range of career paths within and outside the military. This comprehensive exam measures your abilities in

areas like mathematics, science, and mechanical comprehension to help match your skills with specific job roles. By signing up, you gain access to personalized career exploration tools that can help you plan your future with confidence and clarity. The ASVAB also meets an alternate pathway for graduation requirements. Students in grades 11 and 12 are encouraged to take the assessment, scores will NOT be sent to military institutions unless requested by the student and/or parent. Limited space, please sign up by Friday, April 17th, 2026.
ASVAB Testing Sign Up

Financial Aid

PA Forward Student Loans | Take Time Now to Plan for Tomorrow
Planning for college can feel overwhelming, but PHEAA offers free tools and resources to guide students and families through every step. EducationPlanner is a career and college planning website that provides practical and easy-to-understand advice to help prepare students for the important decisions they will face in the future. Share EducationPlanner.org to help students and families work together on the transition from high school to college.

FAFSA Overview – Line by Line
On Wednesday March 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM, PHEAA Access Partners will present an overview of the 2026-27 FAFSA process to guide students and families through a step-by-step process of filing the FAFSA and PA State Grant applications. Register at pheaa.org/virtual.

Understanding and Comparing Financial Aid Offers
On Wednesday March 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM, PHEAA Access Partners will present information on the steps students should take after completing the FAFSA. They will discuss the financial aid process, strategies to review and understand financial aid offers from colleges, and how to compare different types of aid. Register at pheaa.org/virtual.

Scholarships

Scholarships are updated in Xello under College Planning, then scholarships.

PRFSD's Veronica Keener & Deborah Morrone scholarship awards.
In recognition of the importance of well-educated professionals as part of the Food Service Industry, the Pittsburgh Food Service Directors Association is offering three (3) $5,000.00 scholarships. The winning candidates will be subject to a scoring matrix that includes several categories such as academics, community volunteer work &

experience, honors, awards, extracurricular activities and an overall assessment from the committee.
Return the completed application, essay, transcript, and letters of recommendation postmarked no later than ***April 15th, 2025*** to:
Mr. Matt Triffanoff, Director of Food Service c/o
Connellsville Area School District
732 Rock Ridge Road
Connellsville, PA 15425
mtriffanoff@casdfalcons.org
http://www.prfsd.com
PRFSD Cover Letter 2025-2026
PRFSD Application 2025-2026

PSBA Trust's 2026 Student Leader Scholarship
Encourage your outstanding students to apply now for the PSBA Trust's 2026 Student Leader Scholarships, which provide a one-time award of up to $2,500 or $5,000 to graduating seniors from PSBA member districts who meet the criteria for one of the four available scholarship categories. Applications for the 2026 scholarships are due by March 13, 2026.

2026 Civic Engagement Scholarships for students
Applications are being accepted now through May 11 for the PA Municipal League's John A. Garner Jr. Civic Engagement Scholarships. Three recipients will be awarded a one-time scholarship of $2,000, $1,000 or $500 to help cover the costs of higher education. Each eligible Pennsylvania high school may have one senior student applicant, chosen by their school counselor, who must submit an essay on the topic of "Civics and You," detailing opportunities within their community that promote civic involvement and encourage citizens to take an active role in addressing local challenges. For more information and to apply, click here.
Submit written entries (application and essay) to Dr. Maloney, no later than Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Make Noise Today Scholarship
Your AAPI identity is more than where you come from—it shapes how you move through the world and how you take action today. Think about the values, traditions, or stories from your family or community that matter most to you. How do they influence how you see fairness, community, or your role in the world? Now take it a step further. Share a moment when your AAPI identity pushed you to do something—speak up, create, support others, or challenge something that didn't feel right. This could be through art, organizing, mentoring, preserving culture, or everyday actions that make a difference.

Information Link

GE Aerospace and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute
High School seniors planning to enroll in either a community college or a technical/trade program to pursue an eligible skilled technical career path are invited to apply for a new scholarship program offered by GE Aerospace and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. A minimum of 10 recipients will be selected annually to each receive a maximum of $20,000 over two years based on cost of attendance. Twenty-five percent of scholarships will be awarded to students from military families.
Information and application link

Hannah's Heart Scholarship
Nominations/Applications:

- DUE: **March 25, 2026 to Counseling Office**
- Answer the Application in 250 words or less
- Must include clear example of why you should be nominated for this award
- Sponsorship Award presented from the Hannah Milbert Memorial Fund
- Monetary Scholarship(s) will be awarded at AHS Spring Spectacular - May 13th, 2026

Informational Link
Application Questions

Out of School Activities

Union Energy Apprenticeship
On April 30 at 9 AM, we'll be hosting a special live tour of Pennsylvania's premier union training facilities – where students can discover rewarding career paths in clean energy and skilled trades. What Makes This Opportunity Valuable:

- Proven Pathways: Our programs lead to stable careers with starting wages of $50,000+ and full benefits
- No Barriers: 100% union-funded – no cost to students, families, or taxpayers
- Future-Ready Skills: Training for in-demand fields like renewable energy and sustainable construction

This is more than a virtual tour – it's a window into real, life-changing opportunities for Pennsylvania students. We've built these programs to create access to meaningful careers, and we're eager to connect with your schools.
Email Dr. Maloney if you need a space to view the tours.
Informational Link

Local 526 Hiring Plasterers and Concrete Finishers (Apprenticeship Opportunity)
Informational Link

The Eye on the Future Video Contest - National Institutes of Health

The Eye on the Future Teen Video Contest is a national STEM opportunity for U.S. students in grades 9–12. It's a simple, creative way to deepen science engagement, build presentation skills, and strengthen college/career portfolios.

About the Contest

- Students can submit a short video in one of three categories to explain a discovery that impacts their life, demonstrate an experiment, or share how science will impact tomorrow. The winners of each category will receive a cash prize of $2,000.
- All submissions are due by April 19, 2026, but only the first 300 submissions will be accepted so encourage students to start early.
- Visit the website for full contest details, rules, and eligibility info.

Why encourage your students to participate?

- Cash prizes are awarded to winning entries
- Students gain exposure to real-world health and research topics
- The contest supports college and career exploration through applied learning
- Videos can be created individually or as part of a team (up to three people)

Thank you for helping us inspire students to explore, imagine, and engage with science. If you need additional information or support, please reach out to 2020@nei.nih.gov.

West Point Information Session(s)

Event Details:

- Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026
- Time: 5:30 PM
- Location:
  MAPS Air Museum
  2260 International Pkwy
  North Canton, OH 44720-1375

REGISTER HERE!

Informational Flyer

Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026
- Time: 6:30 PM
  Registration will begin at 5:30pm and the presentation will begin at 6:30pm.
- Location:
  Fred Rogers Center
  300 Fraser Purchase Rd
  Latrobe, PA 15650-2667

REGISTER HERE!
Informational Flyer
During the Admissions Presentation, we will discuss:

1. What West Point Offers: Learn why West Point stands as a premier institution for leadership development, academic excellence, and character growth.
2. Life as a Cadet: Gain insights into the daily life of a West Point Cadet, including academics, athletics, and leadership training.
3. The Application Process: Understand the steps to apply to West Point and gather valuable tips to enhance your application.

Space is limited, so be sure to secure your spot at the event and register as soon as possible.

Virtual College Fair #2 – Ohio State, Purdue, Rochester Institute of Technology. Univ. of Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 26, 2026; 7:00 – 8:15 pm
(Virtual via Zoom)
"Visit" four colleges in one hour via Zoom! Women engineering students will talk about the engineering program at their college, what makes their college special, and networking & social opportunities. They will also answer any questions you have.
Registration Link: https://forms.gle/1vieo2Hbpfu3HrTV8
After registering, you will receive a Zoom calendar invitation in your email. Add the date to your calendar now so that you don't forget!
Registration closes on Tuesday, March 24
Sponsored by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) - Pittsburgh professional section
Questions? Send an email to swe.pittsburgh@gmail.com.
Informational Flyer

Summer Activities

Camp NAWIC 2026
The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Pittsburgh is pleased to share that applications are now open for Camp NAWIC 2026. Camp NAWIC is a free, week-long career exploration camp designed for young women entering 8th–12th grade who are interested in learning more about careers in construction and the skilled trades. The camp will be held June 22–26, 2026, from 8:00am–3:30pm daily in Pittsburgh and will provide hands-on experiences, industry exposure, and opportunities to connect with women professionals in construction-related fields. We truly appreciate your continued interest in supporting career exploration opportunities for your students. We kindly ask that you share this information with interested students and their parents/guardians, whether through counseling offices, newsletters, classroom announcements, or other

communication channels. Applications are due April 24, 2026, and space is limited. Attached is a flyer you can utilize to help spread the word, and here is the link to the application on NAWIC Pittsburgh's website: https://www.nawicpittsburgh.com/camp-nawic-2024-apply-now If you would like additional information to distribute, please let us know—we are happy to provide materials.

High School Pathway Summer Camps - PSU Beaver

We're excited to share two summer High School Pathways Camps at Penn State Beaver for students ages 14–17.

- Biology Pathways Camp: June 22–25, 2026
- Criminal Justice Pathways Camp: July 20–23, 2026

These four-day camps provide hands-on exploration of college majors and career pathways in biology and criminal justice.

Camp funding is available for eligible youth through Job Training for Beaver County. Contact JTBC at 724-728-4860 ext. 228 or rlivengood@jtbc.org to learn more.

Informational Flyer

Point Park University - Summer Offerings

Accelerated Career Awareness Program

Informational Link

Point Spark Entrepreneurship Camp

Informational Link

Sports Business Camp

Informational Link

Job Opportunity

Sewickley Valley YMCA – Summer Camp Counselor Position

• Pay: $14.50/hour for first-year counselors
• Eligibility: Graduating high school seniors (17–18) or older
• Commitment: 11 weeks (June 1 – August 14, weekdays only)
• Training Week: Mandatory training week, 9:00am–5:00pm (M–F)

Schedule Options:

• 7:00am–1:15pm
• 8:45am–5:15pm
• 8:45am–6:30pm

Responsibilities:

• Supervise and engage campers ages Kindergarten through 15

• Lead games, sports, crafts, and themed activities
• Serve as a positive role model for youth
• Help create a safe, fun, and supportive camp environment
• Work as part of a team to manage daily camp programming

Camp activities include: sports, themed programming, crafts, values education, swimming, hiking, games, and science activities. Last summer we served around 400 campers per day, creating a fun and energetic environment for both campers and staff.

We also offer a Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program for students ages 13–16 who may not yet meet the age requirement for the paid counselor position. The CIT program allows teens to gain hands-on experience assisting counselors, learning leadership skills, and developing confidence while working with campers. Families do pay a fee for the program, as participants are still part of the camp environment, but students are mentored and trained by staff so that when they turn 17 they are prepared to transition into a paid camp counselor position.

Students can apply by visiting www.sewickleyymca.org and clicking “Y Job Opportunities” at the bottom of the homepage.

Informational Flyer

Volunteer Opportunity

Chase the Antelopes Volunteer

We're looking for high school students that can volunteer at our annual Chase the Antelopes 5k Run & One-Mile Walk on Saturday, April 25 from 8-10 am.

Students can volunteer to direct runners/walkers on the course, help out at the registration/raffle prize table, or hand out water/snacks to participants.

The event will be held rain or shine on Saturday, April 25 with the starting/finish line at Lenzner Field and the run/walk taking place throughout Avonworth Heights and Cobblestone. High School students can sign up to volunteer using this link:

Volunteer at Chase the Antelopes

Just a reminder, all archived Future Ready updates since December 19, 2025 are located on the school counseling office website and uploaded to Xello resources for students. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information. Reminder, the update will be sent on Thursday, March 12th. If you are looking for specific information or items for future updates, don’t hesitate to reach out.

Have a great weekend and let’s go Lopes!

Dr. Lisa Maloney
Avonworth School District
Future-Ready Coordinator

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Office: 412-366-6360 x 1617
Counseling Office Website
Future Ready Hub
Make an Appt. with Dr. Maloney