March 26, 2026

Good afternoon and welcome to this edition of the Future Ready Update. This week, you will find information on many topics including a sign up for a Junior College Essay Workshop on Thursday, April 9th, deadline tomorrow and ASVAB testing sign up for April 23rd. In addition, many scholarships with deadlines tomorrow or over the next week. These scholarships are for juniors and seniors, with a few 9-12. Highlighted are some out of school and summer activities, including University of Toledo's Sports Marketing program, University of Michigan's Joy of Coding and University of Maryland's Terp Scholars. Finally, there are two great volunteer opportunities for any student needing service hours. There will be no update next week in observance of Spring Break, look for the next update on Friday, April 10th.

Quick Links:
In School Activities
Scholarships
Out of School Activities
Summer Activities
Job and Volunteer Opportunities

In School Activities

Junior College Essay Workshop - Last chance to sign up
This workshop is ideal for juniors who want to get ahead of the fall application crunch. Whether you have a draft that feels "flat" or you haven't written a single word yet, you'll leave with a clear roadmap for your Common App personal statement and information/ideas around tackling supplemental essays.
Note: Please bring a laptop and charger
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026
Time: 8:00am - 11:00am
Location: LGI
Space may be limited. Please sign up no later than Friday, March 27th, 2026
Sign Up 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

Scholarships

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

Lenzner Family Award - *Deadline Tomorrow!*
The Lenzner Family Award was created to assist a student with financial need who has shown great academic improvement over the years and plans to attend a post-secondary educational program. The two winners (one female and one male) will be announced at the annual high school awards event. Each award is worth $1,000 and is a one-time disbursement (non-renewable).
Application Link
Due: March 27, 2026
Seniors

Ryan Ballou/Southall Scholarship - *Deadline Tomorrow!*
This award recognizes students for their promotion of a positive environment for the benefit of the Avonworth community.
Criteria*: Open to all high school students (grades 9-12). The applicant must submit a 500 word essay explaining their service/activities. Your counselor must sign the application as a formal nomination and screening process.
Application Link
Due: March 27, 2026
All students grades 9-12

Princeton Book Award - Deadline Tomorrow
This awards program was established by the Princeton Alumni Association of Western Pennsylvania (PAAWP) to recognize outstanding students in public and private secondary schools. The award is given to a student at the end of their junior year. Students are awarded personalized, autographed books from prominent Princeton authors in a field of study that might be of interest to the student selected for the award. School administrators are responsible for choosing the recipient for the award based on the following criteria:
* Intellectual promise and academic excellence

* Exemplary service or extracurricular activities
* Outstanding personal character

Awarded to a current member of the Junior Class who demonstrates “intellectual promise and academic excellence, exemplary service or (participation in) extracurricular activities, and outstanding personal character”. Submit application to Dr. Maloney.
Deadline: March 27, 2026
Application Link

David R. Williams Memorial Scholarship
David R. Williams Memorial Scholarship benefits a graduating senior(s) from Avonworth High School who has the highest cumulative grade point average of those students meeting the following criteria:

Be a varsity athlete (including Marching Band and Cheerleading)
Be a graduating senior in June 2026.
Plan to attend a not-for-profit post-secondary institution or accredited career or technical school.
Be a prospective English major (including journalism, communications, theater arts, speech, English education, creative writing, technical writing, etc.)

Seniors must complete this Google Form indicating their college plans and prospective majors. From this list, the Athletic Director identifies those students who are also varsity athletes. Of those seniors meeting both criteria,
Deadline: March 27, 2026

Junior Scholars Program - Reed College
We invite you to nominate your qualified students for the spring sessions of our Junior Scholars Program! Junior Scholars is an in-depth virtual program designed to introduce high-achieving high schools juniors to the college search, help them produce a competitive admission application, and answer the unique questions posed by underrepresented students and students of color. All students are welcome to apply.
As Junior Scholars, your students will:

- Connect with Milyon Trulove, Vice President and Dean of Admission & Financial Aid.
- Participate in interactive workshops focused on understanding the financial aid process and getting a head start on the college essay.
- Meet faculty and current Reedies and learn about how Reed supports students from diverse backgrounds.

Interested student must email Dr. Maloney a letter of interest and resume by **Friday, March 27, 2026**
Juniors interested in Reed

University of Rochester Junior Awards

Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award

- High achievement and rigor in science and math classes
- Positive contributions to their school and within the larger community

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award

- Demonstrated commitment to understanding and addressing difficult social issues
- Leadership and dedication to community action
- Strong grades and rigorous courses taken in the humanities and social sciences

George Eastman Young Leaders Award

- Strong leadership experience at school and in the community
- High grades and challenging courses
- Extensive involvement in extracurricular activities

Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology

- Strong interest in innovation and/or information technology and a high level of achievement in this area
- Exposure to new technologies outside of school, such as pursuing serious work opportunities in local laboratories or industry
- Leading other students to new approaches to old problems (e.g., business plans for fundraising, innovative community service, after-school activities, and best uses of internal communications tools such as chat and blogs)

Information Link

If interested in being considered for this nomination, send Dr Maloney a letter of interest and resume no later than ***Friday, March 27, 2026.***

PSCA Scholarship 2026

One scholarship for $1000.00. Students must submit a one page essay on a School Counselor who has made a difference in your academic, career, and/or social-emotional development.

Information Link

Application Link

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Avon Club Scholarship

The Avon Club Scholarship is a $3,000 scholarship awarded annually to a female senior student residing within the Avonworth School District. Senior students residing in Avonworth Area School District as well as private and home school students are eligible, but the student's home address must be located within the Avonworth School District footprint.

Application Link
Due: April 6, 2026
Female Seniors

PNRC Educational Foundation Scholarship
Each year, the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber Educational Foundation awards $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors within the Chamber's footprint who are continuing their education, and who have exemplary community service records and leadership experience.
Imminent high school graduates who are planning to begin college in the fall of 2026 should complete our online application form no later than Friday, April 17.
Feel free to share the linked form below with your students. They are also welcome to visit our PNRC Educational Foundation webpage.
Questions? Contact PNRC Chair-Elect Beth Machine at pnrcoutreach@gmail.com or call 412-926-5750.
Due: April 17, 2026

Sig Ep - Balanced Men Scholarships
With this in mind, we wanted to remind you and the students you work with that we have over $300,000 in scholarship opportunities through the Balanced Man Scholarship at over 100 campuses nationwide. Qualifying for the Balanced Man Scholarship is simple, as all incoming students need to do is submit an online application and enroll full-time at any of these institutions for the fall 2026 term. These applications are not labor-intensive for students, typically taking less than 30 minutes to complete.
Application Link

Tzu Chi USA Scholarship
The Tzu Chi USA Scholarship, funded by the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, provides financial assistance to outstanding college-bound high school graduates and returning undergraduate scholars within selected regions of the United States. Scholars are selected based on financial need, academic pursuit(Commitment to continuing education at a college or university), and a strong commitment to community involvement. Applications are now open! Please ensure your application is submitted by the April 15, 2026 deadline.
Information Link
Application Link
Due: April 15, 2026

***NEW The Jamie & Ali McMutrie Spirit of Giving Award**

The Jamie & Ali McMutrie Spirit of Giving Award was created to recognize an Avonworth High School student who has demonstrated a humanitarian spirit and selfless actions as exhibited by Jaime and Ali McMutrie, two Avonworth Alumna.
To be considered for the award, students must:

1. Be a resident of Emsworth Borough, Ben Avon Borough, Ben Avon Heights Borough, Kilbuck Township or Ohio Township.
2. Be in grades 9-12 at Avonworth High School.
3. Complete an application and include an essay responding to the following prompt:

Please describe your humanitarian efforts and its impact on the community at large.

4. Submit a letter of reference from your community service supervisor.
5. Submit all materials to Dr. Maloney by **Friday, April 10, 2026.**

All applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by the scholarship panel. The winner will be announced at the annual high school awards assembly. The award is up to $400 (amount varies each year) and is a one-time disbursement (non-renewable).
Recipient(s) will be notified by April 24, 2026 and will be recognized at the annual awards ceremony
Application Link

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

Out of School Activities

Rocket Playbook - University of Toledo

There are many great events at The University of Toledo this spring. We wanted to reach out and let you know about our newest event Rocket Playbook: Sports Management at UToledo on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. This is a special event for admitted and prospective students who are interested in the business of sports to learn all about our new sports management concentration.

What can students expect at Rocket Playbook?

- Explore how Sports Management at UToledo connects business, athletics and career readiness.
- Hear from professionals during a Sports Management Career Panel.
- Learn about career paths like marketing and fan experience, data analytics, sponsorship sales, finance, NIL (name, image, likeness), and athlete branding.
- Meet representatives from the College of Business and Innovation.
- Connect with the UToledo Admission team.
- Enjoy a ballpark buffet and experience game-day atmosphere at Fifth Third Field.
- Watch the Toledo Rockets vs. Michigan Wolverines baseball game.

This event has both an optional on-campus experience at UToledo's Main Campus and a downtown program at Fifth Third Field.

Informational Link

Summer Activities

Joy of Coding online course - University of Michigan

University of Michigan enrollment has opened for 2026 Joy of Coding online courses, specially created by the University of Michigan Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, for high schoolers who want to experience first-hand the power and thrill of coding computers, including AI, to do amazing things.

These days, almost all STEM fields, not just Computer Science, use coding and AI as a means to instruct the computer to "do more" cool stuff e.g., designing vaccines, programming robots and driverless cars, inventing apps to detect and diagnose diseases in humans, animals and plants and so on.

Via Joy of Coding initiative, over 5000 students, from 50 states and 26 countries have taken our college-level, high-school-student-accessible Intro to coding, AI and data science courses. These courses are offered in a learn-at-your-pace, online, fully instructor-supported format.

- Intro to Coding and Computational Thinking course is ideal for beginners with no prior coding background who want to experience the power of coding firsthand.

- Intro to Data Visualization and AI course is a perfect follow-up for students with prior coding experience (such as our Intro to Coding Course or AP Computer Science) who want to learn how AI works to ultimately train, evaluate and improve their own AI
- Intro to Training, Evaluating and Fine-tuning an AI offers an excellent introduction to students who have completed the data and visualization and AI course on how modern AI systems learn from data.

Students have strengthened their college applications by pointing to their success(es) in our course(s) as evidence of their ability and desire to learn challenging new material in a self-regulated manner. Our alums have remarked that our courses have helped them by preparing them for more advanced courses in high school and college.
We are looking for students 13+ that have taken high school algebra who:

- Enjoy the logic in math,
- Love solving problems creatively and,
- Are willing to reach out for help to our team of coaches when stuck - everyone gets stuck somewhere when learning something new!

Students may begin our courses any time after June 17, 2026, and complete them at their own pace by August 28, 2026. Each course requires about 4–6 hours per week.
The cost is $149 + tax per course; need-based financial aid is available.
To receive priority consideration, apply by May 31, 2026 on our website.
We've included a flyer and other key details about the course in this email so you can also forward this message.
For further questions, please email joyofcoding@umich.edu.
Prof. Raj
PS Here's an article about the initiative and its prior successes.
Here is a note for why we feel our courses are important and essential and do things differently than many other online offerings.

Terp Young Scholars - University of Maryland
This summer, join the University of Maryland's Terp Young Scholars program for a transformative pre-college experience. In just three weeks, high school students (rising grade 10 to graduating grade 12) will have the opportunity to challenge their academic curiosity, connect with faculty, and earn three university credits.
Flexible Learning Options:

- Campus: Maximize the daily experience of UMD's exceptional campus.
- Online: Engage in interactive virtual classes from anywhere.

Informational Link

Job and Volunteer Opportunities

Lace & Legacy Volunteer Request - *Deadline to volunteer soon!*
The non-profit is called Lace & Legacy. They collect bridal, evening, prom and homecoming gowns and will be having a sale on April 11-12 from 9-4 at Studio RAW Elite at 3185 Babcock Blvd to benefit Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. They are in need of volunteers to help set up Friday, April 10 from 5pm-8pm ish and then to help with the sale from 8:30-4:30 on that Saturday and 8-5 on Sunday. They are looking for at least 4 volunteers to cover the shifts, but it does not need to be the same student the entire time. If there are several that can split the time, that would work too.
Informational Flyer
Interested in volunteering - email Kim Hoffman at dk3197@comcast.net

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

Please let me know if you have any questions or you need further information. Look for the next update on April 10th. If you are looking for specific information or items, don't hesitate to reach out.

Have a great Spring Break!

Dr. Lisa Maloney
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Future-Ready Coordinator
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Counseling Office Website
Future Ready Hub
Make an Appt. with Dr. Maloney