

Senior Newsletter — April 2026

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 Welcome, Seniors & Families!

Greetings from the Counseling Center at Moon Area High School! My goal is to help students find their *best-fit* path after graduation — whether that's college, career, military, or another exciting direction. Let's keep seniors on track as we head into the final stretch!

Senior Year: Spring Post-Secondary Planning Checklist

As we move through the winter months, please keep the following in mind:

- **College Applications & Portals** - All college applications should be completed and submitted. Students should regularly check their college portals to confirm applications are complete and to monitor for updates.
- **Transcripts**
 - A copy of your student's most recent transcript (including first semester grades) has been uploaded to the Portfolio section of Skyward.
 - A final transcript will be posted to Skyward after graduation and sent to the college your student plans to attend. Final transcripts will be available until June 30. It is strongly recommended that you download a copy of the final high school transcript prior to June 30.
- **Grades, Credits, and GPA** -Credits are earned once a class is completed. GPAs update only after the completion of a semester or full-year course.
- **Accepted Student Events** - Colleges will host accepted student programs throughout the spring. These events are a great opportunity to learn more about academic programs, campus life, and overall fit.
- **Financial Aid Forms** -Be sure to complete the FAFSA and any additional financial aid forms required by individual colleges.
- **College Decisions & Financial Aid Awards** -Students should receive all college decisions and financial aid award letters by early April. Review these awards carefully before making a final decision. Understand the difference between loans, scholarships, grants, and out-of-pocket costs. Families are encouraged to contact college financial aid offices with specific questions. I am also happy to help students review and understand award letters.
- **Finding the Right Fit** - College fit includes academics, social environment, distance from home, and affordability.
- **College Commitment Deadlines** - Traditionally, May 1 is the national college decision day, though some colleges may extend deadlines. It is the student's responsibility to know their deposit deadline. If financial aid information is delayed, families may request an extension.
- **Final Transcripts** - Once a student commits to a college, a final transcript must be sent after graduation. Students will receive instructions in May—no action is needed now.

Wear Your Future Day — May 21, 2026

Celebrate the Class of 2026!

- ✓ College or military → wear your gear
- ✓ Workforce → dress for your future career
- ✓ No merch? → make a sign
-  Fun photos

FAFSA + Financial Aid Tips

The FAFSA is open! Before starting:

- Student + one parent must create an FSA ID
- Use a personal email (not school email)
- Activation may take a few days

Net Price Calculators

Every college offers one — use them to estimate real costs and compare schools smartly.

Helpful Scholarship Search Sites:

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

 Most scholarships accept unofficial transcripts from Skyward. Need official? Contact Ms. Monyak.

Check Email + Portals Often

Colleges send important info electronically. Missing an email could mean missing a deadline or scholarship!

NCAA Edibility Center

Planning to compete Division I or II? Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

- Transcripts sent through Naviance
- Test scores sent directly from testing agencies
- (Scores not required for eligibility)

💡 You're almost there, seniors!

If questions pop up, I'm always here to help you navigate your next step with confidence.