April 10, 2026

Good afternoon and welcome to this edition of the Future Ready Update. This week, you will find information on many topics including a reminder for seniors to complete the senior exit survey by May 4th, 2026. This will allow seniors to participate in our post-secondary bulletin board and to ensure final transcripts are sent to the correct institution. In addition, school based activities including the ASVAB sign up for April 23rd and a recording of the Virtual Skilled Trade Pathway parent meeting. There are some great financial aid webinars regarding FAFSA completions, changes in student loans and comparing award offers. Also highlighted are several scholarships, including many local scholarships with due dates. These include Pittsburgh North Region Chamber of Commerce (4/17), Jamie & Ali McMutrie Award (4/10), Jack-Downey Avonworth-Northgate Co-op Track and Field Scholarship (5/1) and a PHEAA no essay scholarship. Finally, there are some out of school and summer activities, including a West Point information session, a few apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs (Bots IQ, McKamish Building), Journey to Bucknell and opportunities with CCBC High School Academies.

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Senior Announcement

Please complete the **Senior Exit Survey in Xello** before May 4, 2026 to participate in the post-secondary bulletin board that will be displayed outside of the counseling office. This is the board that shows post-secondary plans with your permission. Follow the steps below.

1. Log into your Xello account
2. On the right hand side of your dashboard, click on “Senior Survey 2026”
3. Complete the survey. This will allow me to send your final transcript to your chosen school and allow me to put your name and plans on the board. I plan to complete the board the week of May 5th-8th
4. Next, go to your “college planning” page under “plans” on the right hand side of your dashboard
    a. Click on “College Applications”
    b. Please go in and update your status for schools you have applied to

If schools aren't listed, you can go in and add them manually in Xello.
Thanks for participating and see me with any questions!
Grade 12 Students

In School Activities

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

Virtual Pathways to Skilled Trades Recording - March 18, 2026

Come and learn about post-secondary education and programs in the skilled trades.
Trade Matrix - Local Union Information, Website, CCAC Credits and Application Links
Trade Union Presentation
Webinar Link

Financial Aid

Federal Student Loan Changes

The changes for the federal student loan program initiated by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act are set to go into effect on July 1, 2026. These changes are more significant than the tweaks to the program in years past. Some major changes are the elimination of the Grad PLUS loan as well as new loan limits for the Parent PLUS loan borrowers.

FAFSA Completion Workshop

Do you want one-on-one support with completing the 2026-27 FAFSA? Virtual one-on-one assistance will be provided during our FAFSA Completion Workshop on Tuesday April 21, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 PM (ET). Please register for your 30-minute session as spaces are limited. Register at pheaa.org/virtual.

Understanding and Comparing Financial Aid Offers

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. The webinar will be on Thursday April 16, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Register at pheaa.org/virtual.

Scholarships

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

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

***NEW Jamie & Ali McMutrie Spirit of Giving Award - Deadline Today!**
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

Jack Downey Avonworth-Northgate Co-op Track and Field Memorial Scholarship: Class of 2026
This $1000 scholarship is being awarded in honor of Mr. Jack Downey, former Northgate/Avonworth track and field coach, to a deserving senior member of the Northgate/Avonworth track and field program. To qualify for this scholarship, the applicant must be a participant of the track team for 2 years including their senior year, demonstrate a genuine financial need for the scholarship funds and have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and write a 250-word essay about a skill, value, or attribute learned as a student-athlete that will help them to be successful in their future. The applicant must plan to attend a college or technical school the semester following graduation.
All applications must be submitted by Friday, May 1st, 2026, at 3:00pm.
Application Link

$2,500 No Essay Scholarship - PHEAA
The PA Forward No-Essay College Scholarship is back for its second year, offering students a chance to win one of twelve $2,500 awards. By simply opting in to our email list, students will be automatically entered for a chance to win money for college! This scholarship is open to students—and to parents of students—who are enrolled or

planning to enroll in college for the 2026-27 academic year. Please share this with your seniors and their families as they prepare for graduation and the fall semester ahead. For more information, visit pheaa.org/ssor-26.

Mechanical Contractor's Association Scholarship
The MCA of Western Pennsylvania will recognize four (4) outstanding students by awarding each a scholarship. The program winners will each receive a $1,000.00 scholarship; four (4) scholarships will be awarded. Recipients are well-rounded individuals with deep interest and involvement in their communities. They spend time volunteering, have excellent academic performance, and are leaders in their schools through involvement in athletics, clubs, extracurricular activities, and student government. Requirements include living in Western Pennsylvania, enrolling in a plumbing, HVAC, mechanical engineering, or other construction related field (see attached program guidelines).
Application Link

GE Aerospace-Reagan Workforce Readiness Scholarship
Time is running out to apply for the GE Aerospace-Reagan Workforce Readiness Scholarship. With less than a month remaining before the May 1 deadline, we encourage eligible high school seniors to complete their applications and secure their required recommendations today.
Offered by GE Aerospace and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, this scholarship provides up to $20,000 over two years to students pursuing a skilled technical career path. We will select a minimum of 10 recipients this year, with 25 percent of the awards designated for students from military families.
All materials, including the required recommendation, must be submitted online by **NOON CST on May 1, 2026.**
Application Link

American Association of Drilling Engineers
Five $2,000.00 AADE scholarships are being offered for the 2026-2027 academic year. The Appalachian Chapter of the AADE is utilizing these scholarships to encourage college bound high school seniors to consider a career in the oil and gas industry. This scholarship is being limited to engineering majors (petroleum, chemical, mechanical, environmental, civil) or energy industry related majors.
Application Link
Due: May 22, 2026

Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation Offers Essay Scholarships
The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation's (PHF's) mission to build awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Commonwealth's rich heritage includes supporting the next generation of scholars and encouraging their enthusiasm for

Pennsylvania History. For our third annual PHF Essay Scholarship, we seek rising high-school seniors and undergraduate students who are pursuing an education in History or an allied field.
Applicants are given broad latitude to prepare an essay of up to 1,500 words about a person, location, or event that has been under-recognized in Pennsylvania History.
The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation will award 8 Scholarships for the best essays received:

- 1 - $2500 award
- 1 - $1500 award
- 6 - $1000 awards

Applicant Requirements:

- Attending a two or four-year Pennsylvania college or university in the fall of 2026
- Pursuing a course of study in History or an allied field
- Current Pennsylvania resident

Due date for submissions is **May 1, 2026.**
For full details and how to apply, visit our Pennsylvania History Essay Scholarship webpage.
The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation is the nonprofit partner of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), the commonwealth's history agency. The Foundation is dedicated to protect, preserve, share, and celebrate Pennsylvania's past, inspiring others to value and use our history in meaningful ways.
For more information visit The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation website
CONTACT: Jodie Dodson at 717-787-9123 or c-jododson@pa.gov
www.paheritage.org

Out of School Activities

West Point Information Session
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.

Apprenticeship Open House - Bots IQ
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
10:00am - 7:00pm
BotsIQ Training & Education Center
100 S Jackson Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Learn about the apprenticeship & pre-apprenticeship opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing.

- Tour the BotsIQ Training & Education Center
- Learn more about Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship with presentations alternating every hour
- Demonstrations & activities, door prizes & more!

https://pghntma.org/happening/apprenticeship-open-house/
Information Link

Journey to Bucknell
On October 1-3, 2026, we will bring a new cohort of students to campus to participate in our signature overnight program, Journey to Bucknell. Participants will meet with staff and students from the Center for Access and Success and Multicultural Student Services, sit in on an actual class, attend several workshops…and more!
As you guide your students through the college search process, please be aware of the following updates to this year's overnight program:
Journey to Bucknell participants are welcome to provide their own transportation to and from campus. However, Bucknell will not reimburse these travel expenses.
Overnight accommodations at a nearby hotel are free for each student and their parent or guardian/chaperone. Bucknell University will cover the cost of one hotel room for Thursday and Friday nights of the program.
The application is now live! Applications are due by June 8, 2026, and decisions go out in early July.
Application Link

Brayman Construction Corporation
Forge Your Future in Construction!

Graduating high school, vo-tech, or trade school soon? Dive into a world of opportunity and craftsmanship without the weight of student loans or extensive college coursework. Western Pennsylvania's robust heavy and highway construction sector is ripe with opportunities, especially as skilled labor demands rise
Application Link

Aviation Showcase - CCBC
We will hold our Aviation Showcase on April 18th. This is an open house event that students can attend with their families from 9 am until 2 pm. Our Aviation Showcase is a networking opportunity for any student who may have an interest in aviation. Students can bring their families to this event held at our Chippewa location. That day students can speak to the airlines, our contracted flight schools, and our premier bachelor's degree partners. The Air Traffic Control and Professional Pilot classrooms will be open, and our faculty will be there to provide an overview of the aviation pathways. Our College Here and Now Team is there along with our dean of aviation to provide information sessions for the full aviation pathways. There will be a food truck and weather permitting discovery flights and Air Traffic Control tower tours will be available. Stop by anytime from 9 am until 2 pm to check out our aviation pathways at CCBC.

- The event is held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Aviation Sciences Center (125 Cessna Dr., Beaver Falls, PA 15010)
    - RSVP Here for the Aviation Showcase

Virtual High School Academies - CCBC
We will also hold a virtual information session to share more about our 6 High School Academies. Check out our website for more details on our High School Academies.
RSVP to the Virtual Information Session-April 21st

United States Marine Corps Music Enlistment Option Program (MEOP)
The MEOP offers qualified individuals the unique chance to serve their country while continuing to develop their musical abilities at a professional level. Students accepted into the program perform as full-time Marine musicians, receive advanced training at the Naval School of Music, and gain valuable experience performing across the country and around the world. In addition to musical development, participants benefit from leadership training, educational opportunities such as Tuition Assistance and the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and a structured path for personal and professional growth.
Our goal is to partner with educators like you to ensure students are aware of opportunities that allow them to pursue their passion for music while building a meaningful and rewarding career.
If you are interested in connecting, use the link below. Musician Enlistment Option Program:

https://www.marines.com/about-the-marine-corps/roles/musician-enlistment-option-program.html

Summer Activities

BNY Early College Program - summer program

The BNY Early College program is a free dual enrollment program for high school students in grades 9-12 who reside in Allegheny County and provides the opportunity to take college courses in Business, Computer Information Technology or Accounting completely free of charge. All tuition, fees, and textbooks are covered through funding from the BNY Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Not only can students earn college credits at no cost, but students also receive a stipend upon successful completion of their course (A = $200.00, B = $150.00, and C = $100.00). Beyond the financial benefits, this program helps students explore potential career paths and build confidence in a college environment, and develop the skills needed to succeed after high school.

Although the spring semester is coming to a close, summer registration is still open, so it is not too late! CCAC has classes starting as early as May 18th and as late as June 29th. Fall registration has also opened this week, making this a great time to introduce the program to students who are interested in enrolling this summer or planning ahead for future semesters. I'd be happy to connect with your school and offer in-person or virtual presentations to walk students through the program, discuss eligibility, and answer any questions they may have.

Information Map

Website Link

Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center Summer Health Career Academy

We are pleased to announce that applications for the Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (AHEC) 2026 Summer Health Career Academy are live!

This program is open to current 9th and 10th grade students who are interested in learning more about various careers in healthcare. During the Academy, which will take place from July 13th through July 17th, students will have the opportunity to hear from leaders in various health care professions and participate in hands-on simulations. The Academy is hosted in Oakland at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Please find more details on the attached flyer.

Students, with their parents' permission, can access the application by visiting www.SouthwestAHEC.org/HCA. Completed applications, with supporting materials, can be submitted by:

1. Uploading all materials to this Google Form

2. Emailing all materials to HCA@SouthwestAHEC.org
3. Mailing all applications to:

Southwest PA Area Health Education Center
Attn: Health Career Academy
565 Allegheny Ave, Suite 200
Oakmont, PA 15139

A confirmation email will be sent once the application is received. Applications are due by May 3rd, 2026.
If you have any questions, please reach out to us at HCA@SouthwestAHEC.org.

Summer Pre-Apprenticeship Program - McKamish Building
Each year, McKamish identifies a group of apprentice candidates and hires them for a summer pre-apprenticeship program.
This program is designed to help the
pre-apprentice:
1.Experience what it is like working in a union environment
2.Refine their understanding of working within a specific trade
3.Expose candidate within that trade to the different career paths it provides
4.Help candidate prepare for the apprenticeship test at their selected union
5.Earn wages of $16-20/hour
Information Link
Send Resumes to: info@McKamish.com and reference this program

Please let me know if you have any questions or you need further information. If you are looking for specific information or items, don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's go Lopes!

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