May 1, 2026

Good afternoon and welcome to this edition of the Future Ready Update. First, there are two important announcements for seniors, including directions for the REQUIRED Senior Survey due Monday, May 4th. Also included are directions for transferring AP and CHS credits to your chosen college. There is news from Pitt regarding tuition at regional campuses (Bradford, Johnstown, Greensburg, etc.). Financial aid information is included regarding PA State Grant, PA Forward Loans and a Universal FAFSA requirement for 2026-2027. Last chance for the Jack Downey scholarship, due at 3pm today. Out of school activities include Remake Learning activities throughout the Pittsburgh area for the month of May, Carpenter's Union Open House tomorrow May 2, 2026, and information on ACE mentoring. Summer activities are listed, including opportunities at PSU Beaver, Chatham, and Ringling School of Design. Finally, there is a job fair and several volunteer opportunities at Avonworth Community Park.

Future Ready Update Schedule for May
May 7, 2026 - early update (Thursday)
May 15, 2026 - final update for grades 9-12
May 22, 2026 - Special Edition for Juniors

Quick Links:
Attention Seniors
College Applications
Financial Aid
Scholarships
Summer Activities
Out of School Activities
Job Opportunities
Volunteer Opportunities

Attention Seniors - RESPONSE NEEDED

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

Transferring CHS Credits
To transfer CHS credits to your post-secondary institution, follow these steps:

1. Check Transfer Policies: Visit your college’s website and search for information about transferring high school credits. Some schools have dedicated pages for this.
2. Send Your Transcript: Once your CHS transcript is available (e.g., from Carlow University), request it to be sent to your college (e.g., Penn State) for evaluation.
3. Need Help? Contact me, your CHS teacher, or the admissions office at your college for assistance.

Refer to the CHS Courses & Postsecondary Equivalent document for additional support.

Transferring AP Credits
To transfer AP credits, follow these steps:

1. Check Transfer Policies: Visit your college’s website for details about AP credit transfer requirements.
2. Send Your Scores: Once available, send your AP scores directly to your college through your College Board account.
3. Need Help? Contact me, the college’s admissions office, or College Board for support.

College Applications

Pitt Regional Campus Tuition News
From the announcement:
The program works as a last-dollar benefit: All federal, state and institutional aid is applied first, and Pitt covers whatever tuition balance remains. The result is $0 tuition for every eligible student, regardless of how much other aid they receive and regardless of their path to enrollment at the regional campus, including current students, new

first-year students, as well as new and existing transfer students. The tuition pledge does not cover textbooks, housing and meals, or other fees.
https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/features-articles/2026/04/30/regional-campus-tuition-pledge

Financial Aid

PA State Grant Deadline
With the end of the school year approaching please encourage students that have not yet completed their FAFSA to complete this important step as soon as possible. May 1, 2026, is the deadline for PA State Grant consideration for many first-time applicants. Please review the Apply or Renew link for deadline information.
Please visit PA State Grant Program for answers to many frequently asked questions as well as other important information regarding the PA State Grant program.

Universal FAFSA requirement 2026-2027
Act 47 of 2025 adopted legislation making Pennsylvania the 14th state requiring FAFSA completion for seniors (unless they opt out) beginning with the 2026-27 academic term. Stay tuned for more information from Dr. Maloney.

PA Forward Student Loans
With 60 years in student aid, PHEAA's mission is to provide affordable access to higher education. Our PA Forward Student Loan Program does just that.
Our earnings help support PHEAA's public service mission to give back to PA students and families through our low-cost, competitive rates.
PA Forward Website

Scholarships

Scholarships are updated in Xello under College Planning, then Scholarships

Jack Downey Avonworth-Northgate Co-op Track and Field Memorial Scholarship: Class of 2026 - note deadline - 3pm TODAY!
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

Fund my Future Pittsburgh Scholarship
Fund My Future PGH is pleased to invite applications for a $1,000 College Scholarship designed to support graduating 12th grade seniors in Allegheny County. This scholarship aims to empower students as they embark on their higher education journey and reward commitment to financial planning within families.
Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be graduating 12th grade seniors (Class of 2026) from an accredited high school in Allegheny County and plan to attend an accredited vocational or technical trade school or a 2- or 4-year college or university.
- A minimum grade point average of 2.75 is required, along with a school transcript and a recommendation letter from a school staff member.
- Applicants must reside in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.
- A parent or guardian must be enrolled in Fund My Future PGH for at least six months prior to the application deadline.
- Applicants must submit an essay of 250 to 500 words. See below for more details.

Application Deadline: All application materials must be submitted by EOD May 10, 2026.
Informational Flyer
Application Link

Out of School Activities

Remake Learning Days
Launched in 2016, Remake Learning Days is a celebration of learning! This festival of events is hosted by a variety of organizations, such as schools, museums, libraries, after school organizations, early child care centers, parks, universities, media centers, tech startups and more. These events are designed to be hands-on, relevant and engaging educational experiences for youth of all ages (pre-K through high school) and their families, caregivers and educators. The majority of events are free and open to kids of all ages. Kids become more interested in the learning process when a caring adult is learning with them. With that in mind, events are designed for a parent/caregiver to learn alongside their kids and to wonder and explore together.
In 2019, RLD started to take root in other regions, including international locales and pop-up events in non-festival regions. In 2025, RLD is celebrating its 10th anniversary and taking root in 15 regions across the world. RLD is powered by Remake Learning and its fiscal sponsor is the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.
Pittsburgh Events

Website

EAS Carpenters Technical Centers Open House
Open House and Carpentry Expo - Competitions will be held in General Carpentry, Interior Systems, Mill Cabinet and Floor Covering.
Saturday, May 2, 2026
8am - 3pm
Information Sessions at 9am & 12pm
Meet apprentices, instructors and learn the carpentry trade
Registration Link
Informational Flyer

Our Future is Science (OFIS) - Aspen Institute
We are currently recruiting high school students in Southwest Pennsylvania for Our Future Is Science (OFIS)—a national informal STEM learning program that gives students the opportunity to apply science to real-world challenges in their communities. Students selected for the program will receive a $1,000 honorarium for their participation.
We develop students through a structured pathway—from exploration to application to leadership—equipping them to use science to understand and address real-world challenges.
OFIS is designed for students who want to:

- Explore their communities and identify local challenges
- Learn from scientists through community talks and lab tours
- Apply the scientific method with mentor support
- Engage with community members and stakeholders
- Develop and present evidence-based solutions through a Science Engagement Project

Program Details and Benefits

- Honorarium: $1,000 per student
- Format: Virtual
- Time Commitment: ~1-2hrs per week
- Duration: September 2026 — May 2027

Participants leave the international award-winning program with a completed project, mentorship from scientists, strengthened research and communication skills, and experience presenting their work in public settings.
Our ask: Please share this opportunity with students who are curious, motivated, and interested in making an impact. If you would like us to present directly to your students or program, we would be happy to coordinate.

To learn more or apply, visit: https://ourfutureisscience.org/mentorship

Ace Mentoring Program

Founded in 1994, the ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE) is a free, award-winning, after school program designed to attract high school students to pursue a career in the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering industry, including skilled trades. ACE is a federation of more than 75 affiliates (chapters) which deliver the program. A national office coordinates and assists affiliates. Over 10,000 students from 1,450 high schools participate annually.

ACE Mentor Program of Western PA (ACE Western PA) was established as an affiliate in 2008 Over $50,000 in scholarships have been awarded to students.

Program Year

The program year runs from October to May. Every other week, the students attend a two-hour session for a total of 16 sessions. Each session focuses on a different career path and skill set under the umbrella of architecture, construction, and engineering. The sessions range from designing hypothetical projects to visiting active construction sites. See our example schedule for specific session topics.

Final Presentation

The program year culminates with a final presentation of a design concept. The concept is based on a project description that changes yearly. With the help of a mentor, the students incorporate the lessons learned from each session throughout the program year.

Mentors

Volunteer mentors are an integral part of the program. Mentors host, plan, and participate in the sessions, as well as guide the students teams to a successful final presentation. Mentors come from a variety of industry backgrounds and share a wide range of knowledge and experiences. Many students return as mentors once they enter the workforce.

Scholarships

Students have the opportunity to apply for an ACE scholarship to help fund post-high school education. Students must choose an ACE-affiliated major at the college or trade of their choice to be eligible for a scholarship.

National Design Competition

A team that includes students and mentors from each affiliate may participate in one of three challenges in the Construction Industry Roundtable (CIRT) Design and Construction Competition. Finalists present their submission in Washington, D.C. The winners receive cash prizes.

ACE Mentor Program of Western P

Student Resources — ACE Mentor Program of Western PA

Summer Activities

Teen Life Summer Programs
The 2026 Guide to Summer Programs is here, and it's packed.
We've filled it with 160+ opportunities across STEM, arts, leadership, and more — plus real student stories, tips on earning college credit over the summer, and a breakdown of how to actually choose the right program for you.
Digital Magazine Link

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

Last Chance to Apply: Summer Teen Art Institute - Ringling School of Design
Don't miss your chance to join RISD Continuing Education in Shanghai this summer for the 2026 Summer Teen Art Institute. This residential program, hosted at the HD Shanghai School, connects high school students with RISD's renowned approach to art and design education. Students are immersed in a dynamic learning environment, with hands-on support to develop their skills, goals, and artistic voice.
HEAR FROM PAST STUDENTS
2026 Program Dates:
Full 5-week Experience: July 5–August 8
3-week Foundations Experience: July 5–25
2-week Major Intensive: July 26–August 8
LEARN MORE
Application deadline: May 7 at 12 pm ET
Eligibility: Rising 9–12 grade students and recent grade 12 graduates (Must be at least 14 years old at the time of the program)
New students can enroll in the full five-week program or participate in the three-week Foundations Experience or two-week Major Intensive. Returning students can continue their experience by enrolling in the two-week Major Intensive.
APPLY NOW
Learn more about the program, review the brochure, and apply by visiting the Summer Teen Art Institute web page. For inquiries about the residential and logistical aspects of

the program, contact risdsummerprogram@hdschools.org. For more information, email risdce@risd.edu.

Sustainable Summer Immersive Day - Eden Hall Campus Chatham University
Chatham University's Eden Hall Campus is hosting a camp on Monday, June 22 for Sustainable Summer: Immersive Environmental Day focused on our Falk School of Sustainability & Environment.
The Sustainable Summer Immersive Day at Eden Hall Campus will provide immersive and hands-on learning experiences led by Falk School faculty for students interested in sustainability, environmental science and agriculture focused majors.
What to expect
Immersive Environmental Day is free to attend, but spots are limited.
RSVP Link

Job Opportunities

JFCS Job Fair
JFCS Career Services.
Spring Job Fair in partnership with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (main), flyer attached.
Date: Friday, May 8 | 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Location:
Carnegie Museum & Library
Second Floor, South Wing Reading Room
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
https://www.carnegielibrary.org/event/spring-job-fair/

Volunteer Opportunities

WHAT: Avonworth Community Park Basketball Skills Competition for Grades 3-6
WHERE: Avonworth Community Park
WHEN: May 9, 2026 10AM -1 PM (games start at 11AM)
This event is always a lot of fun but we need help to make it possible.
If you are able to volunteer, please sign up here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4FAEAC23A1FD0-63497526-volunteers
AND if you have a player that'd like to sign up, get their slot here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4FAEAC23A1FD0-63303575-26avonworth
*If you are interested in announcing at this event, email Dr. Maloney ASAP.

Donuts & Dirt: Trail Hike and Maintenance Event - May 23 - 9:30-11:30AM:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4FAEAC23A1FD0-63871027-donuts

Donuts & Dirt: Trail Hike and Maintenance Event - May 30 - 9:30-11:30AM:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4FAEAC23A1FD0-63871034-donuts

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. Have a safe and fun Prom!

Let's go Lopes!

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