

Senior Newsletter | October 2026

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A Message from Ms. Sitko

Hello families!

I'm Julie Sitko, the College & Career Counselor here at Moon Area High School. As your child navigates senior year, I'm here to help guide post-secondary planning—whether it's college, technical school, military, or the workforce. Each month, you'll receive this newsletter packed with resources, reminders, and opportunities. Please reach out with questions any time.

Fall Post Secondary Planning Timeline

- **Test-Optional Colleges:** Many schools are not requiring SAT/ACT scores. Even if your child takes the test, they don't need to submit scores unless the scores strengthen the application. (Search "50% SAT at [School Name]" to compare.)
 - **Free Score Reports:** Students sending SAT/ACT scores can choose four colleges for free, before taking the test
 - **Recommendation Letters:** Many schools don't require them—check before asking. If needed, students should request via Naviance after asking the teacher directly.
 - **Apply Early:** Aim to submit college applications by Thanksgiving. But, be sure to meet all application deadlines.
 - **Transcripts:** Must be requested via Naviance—guides are posted in the Class of 2027 Teams page
 - **Records Release Form:** Must be submitted before transcripts are sent. Found in the Teams page pinned at the top of the page
 - **Register to Vote:** Students 18 by Election Day (November 3) must register by October 19
[Register to Vote in PA](#)
 - **Selective Service:** Male students must register at age 18. [Register here.](#)
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College Appy-Hour

Wednesdays in October during Homeroom – Counseling Center

Students can work independently on applications with my support. Sign in at homeroom first, then get a pass to come to the counseling center.

College Fairs

[Regional College Fairs \(October\)](#)

Monday, October 5 – North Pittsburgh @ LaRoche University, 6–8 PM

Tuesday, October 6 – South Pittsburgh @ Bethel Park HS

Wednesday, October 7 – West Pittsburgh @ Robert Morris University UPMC Events Center | 6–7:30 PM

Register for a barcode: [StriveFair](#) (for all regional fairs) **West Pittsburgh Regional at Robert Morris**

Ask basic questions like:

- What majors are unique to your school?
- What's the student-to-faculty ratio?
- What's the campus culture like?

HBCU College Fair

- August Wilson African American Cultural Center
- Thursday, October 8 (during school day)
- Permission slips due to counseling center by October 5

FAFSA Completion Night

Tuesday, November 3 | 6:30 PM @ MAHS, room 117

Work with a financial aid representative to complete the FAFSA

Register here: [2026 FAFSA Fall Completion Workshop - November 3 at Moon Area HS – Fill out form](#)

Under a new law recently enacted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, high school students enrolled in Pennsylvania public and non-public schools must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) with the U.S. Department of Education or submit the [Pennsylvania FAFSA Completion Opt-Out Form](#) before completing high school.

College Info Events in Pittsburgh

United States Military Academy (West Point)

Thursday, October 15, 2026

5:45-8:00 pm

Robert Morris University

<https://apply.westpoint.edu/register/RMU>

ASVAB Testing

Wednesday, November 5

Great for military-bound students or general career exploration

Register here: [November 4, 2026 ASVAB Test Registration – Fill out form](#)

Scholarships

Naviance > Colleges > Scholarships and Money > Scholarship List

Additional Sites:

- [Fastweb](#)
- [Pittsburgh Foundation](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)

College Reps Visiting Moon

Meet the admission reps (often those reviewing applications!).

View and register in Naviance > “What’s New”

Get a pass from the Counseling Center

Campus Visits – Questions to ask

- What is the 4-year graduation rate?
- What is the retention rate for sophomores?
- What support is available for undecided majors?
- How does the school help with internships or job placement?
- What is campus culture like?
- What are your most unique majors?

Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation

Request at least **2 weeks in advance**

Letters from school counselors cannot be requested in Naviance. Students must speak with us directly.

Counselors need time to write quality letters—plan ahead!

ACT & SAT Testing

- **SAT:** collegeboard.org
- **ACT:** act.org

Test dates are posted in the Class of 2027 Teams page and on the Counseling Center website.

Fee waivers are available for students on free/reduced lunch—see your school counselor or Ms. Sitko.

Test Optional Reminder: Many colleges are test optional for Class of 2027, including for scholarships. Be strategic—if test scores don't help your application, you may not need to submit them.

Check policies: [FairTest – Test Optional Colleges](#)

ACT/SAT Test Prep Options

- **Khan Academy** (FREE SAT prep): khanacademy.org
 - **ACT Academy** (FREE ACT prep): academy.act.org
 - **Penn State Beaver** – In-person SAT classes: <https://beaver.psu.edu/ce/youth/sat>
Classes begin October 17
 - **3RPrep** – Virtual & in-person options: <https://www.3rprep.com/>
 - **Goldstein Test Prep** – SAT/ACT tutoring (in-person & virtual)
412-874-7645 | Website: goldsteintestprep.com
 - **Eaton Prep** – Classes at Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center and virtually www.eatonprep.com
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If you have any questions or need help at any point in this journey, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let's make senior year successful!