

## Junior Newsletter | October 2026

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### Welcome, Class of 2028 Families

I'm excited to support your child as they begin their post-secondary planning journey. As the College and Career Counselor, my goal is to help students discover their "best fit" path—whether that's college, a career, or military service. This monthly newsletter will help keep you on track throughout junior year!

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### Junior Year Timeline – Fall Focus

- Start exploring college and career options in Naviance
  - Plan to take the SAT or ACT starting February/March
  - Sign up for college rep visits at Moon
  - Begin test prep if planning to take standardized tests
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### 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 the school day)
  - Permission slips due by October 5
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### 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>

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### 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](#)

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### Scholarships

Visit Naviance → Colleges → Scholarships & Money → Scholarship List

Favorite search sites:

- [fastweb.com](https://fastweb.com)
  - [Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarships](#)
  - [Scholarships.com](https://scholarships.com)
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### College Reps Visiting Moon:

College reps are visiting Moon Area to speak with students!

Sign up in Naviance > What's New

Visits close 1 hour before start time

See daily announcements for upcoming visits

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### College Campus Visits – What to Ask

When visiting colleges, ask:

What's the 4-year graduation rate?

What's the retention rate for sophomores?

What's the campus culture like?

What academic support is available?

What are your most unique majors?

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### SAT & ACT information

SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Testing schedule available in the Class of 2028 Teams folder and Counseling Center webpage.

Key Notes:

- Many colleges are test-optional—check school policies!
  - Every college accepts SAT or ACT, no preference
  - Students on free/reduced lunch: ask for fee waivers
  - Skip the ACT writing section unless required
- Check test-optional policies: [www.fairtest.org/university/optional](http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional)
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### ACT/SAT Test Prep Options

- **Khan Academy** (FREE SAT prep): [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)
  - **ACT Academy** (FREE ACT prep): [academy.act.org](http://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](http://goldsteintestprep.com)
  - **Eaton Prep** – Classes at Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center and virtually [www.eatonprep.com](http://www.eatonprep.com)
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### NCAA Info

Planning to play D1 or D2 college sports?

Register at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

Transcripts sent at the end of the year

Send test scores directly from College Board or ACT

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### Managing College Emails

Tips to stay organized:

1. Create a separate email for college communication
  2. Set up folders to organize by interest level
  3. Check regularly and delete what you don't need
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## Summer Programs – Apply Early!

Looking for enrichment opportunities next summer? These **prestigious programs** are ideal for current sophomores and juniors. Click on each program below to learn more and apply directly through their websites.

### ◆ Pennsylvania-Based Enrichment Programs

- [PA School for Excellence in Agricultural Studies](#) (Penn State)
  - [Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive](#) (Lehigh University)
  - [Governor's School for the Sciences](#) (Carnegie Mellon University)
  - [Governor's School for Global & International Studies](#) (University of Pittsburgh)
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### Helpful Resources

- [Georgia Tech Admission Blog](#) – Insightful, funny, and full of great advice
  - [College Essay Guy](#) – Free guides, essay tips, and more
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If you have questions or need support, don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to helping you and your student make informed and confident post-secondary decisions this year!