



MENTORING THIS MONTH

MARCH 2025
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

March



Are we there yet? Has Spring sprung? Fortunately, Spring 2025 is due to arrive on Thursday, 3/20/25 -- and not a moment too soon! In the meantime, you can also look forward to MCOCP's annual Pizza Party Celebrations, which are coming to a school near you during March and April. See page four for the current schedule. It was emailed to you as well. We hope to see you there!

Our College Promise Scholar Night was held on 2/27/25 at Sinclair Community College for junior mentees, mentors and parents. It was well attended, and admissions representatives from 15 out of 16 of our college partners were on hand to meet with prospective candidates and talk with them about the application process and the various degree programs they offer. Other external partners, such as Bottom Line, were also in attendance. Patrick presented more detailed information about MCOCP and how the scholarship works.



Aerial view of MCOCP Scholars, Mentors, and Families at College Promise Scholar Night 2025

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Be sure to check out the various “Mentor Reminders” in this edition and share them with your mentee. Don’t miss out! Additionally, you’ll discover news items on several trending topics, including FAFSA and federal assistance program updates, Ohio’s SB1, Gen Z and college admissions, and Gen Z and employment. As you have time, please take a moment to peruse an article or listen to a podcast while you’re on the way to work or at the gym. There’s something of interest for everyone in the “News You Can Use” segment!



MARCH DISCUSSION TOPICS

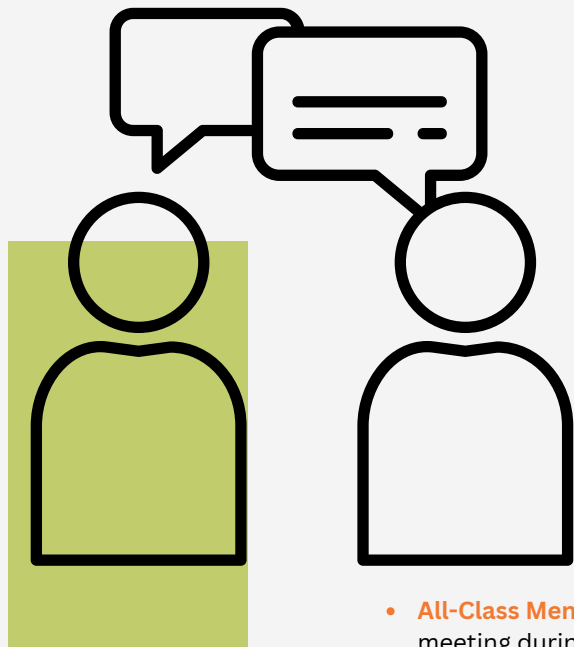
- Do you have a favorite song? What is it?
- What is your favorite movie? What is your favorite movie theater food?
- What would you most like to ask your higher power?
- Do you see the cup as half full or half empty? Why?

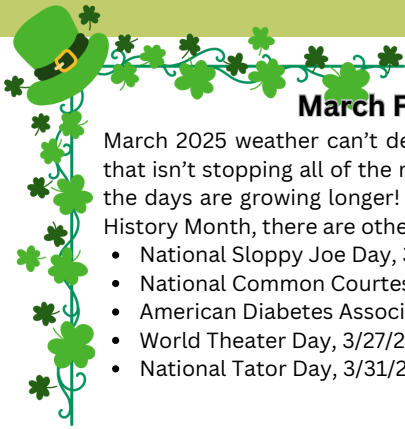
(Sources for some questions: *Family Talk* game and Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves® conversation starter cards.)

For more information about the On Our Sleeves® initiative and other resources, visit:

- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation Conversation Starter Resources](#)
- [Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves](#)

- **All-Class Mentors:** Please remember to check the school calendar to ensure that you're not meeting during state testing, Spring Break or other days when school is not in session.
- **All-Class Mentors:** It's time for the mentee-mentor pizza parties! See page four and your email inbox for dates and locations for these events in your respective schools. **Additionally, please be sure to let your mentee know the pizza party date and time.**
- **All-Class Mentors:** It's mentor recruitment time! We selected our 15th Cohort MCOCP Scholars -- 58 students! If you know of someone who may be interested in serving as a mentor for this incoming group of mentees, please let Patrick know. We recognize that we can't start too early in the mentor recruitment process.
- **All-Class Mentors:** In the coming weeks, be sure to check your mailboxes for the MCOCP Annual Report, which will be mailed this month. If you don't receive a copy by early April, please contact Patrick.
- **All-Class Mentors:** MCOCP is proud to announce that we have three new college partners, Otterbein University, Bowling Green State University (BGSU), and Ohio Wesleyan University. Otterbein was added this year and is an option for the Class of 2025. BGSU and Ohio Wesleyan will be available as college choices beginning with the Class of 2026.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Sinclair Community College's **free** Built Environment Summer Camp will be held Monday, 6/9/25 - Friday, 6/13/25. Students will explore and be exposed to architecture, construction management, civil engineering, HVAC and more. Interested applicants should register [here](#). Please see the flyer attachment, included in the March 2025 Mentoring This Month email, for additional details.
- **Sophomore, Junior and Senior Mentors:** "Science and Technology of Sports," a summer camp sponsored by Sinclair Community College's Women in STEM (WiSTEM), will take place Monday, 6/9/25 - Friday, 6/13/25. The camp is open to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. **Registration** is now open. The \$10 fee covers registration, daily lunch and a T-shirt.
- **Sophomore Mentors:** YMCA of Greater Dayton, in partnership with Wright State University, is hosting Junior Leadership Dayton for **rising juniors**. This leadership development program meets one day each month from August through April. Participants will be exposed to various social and economic issues in the Miami Valley. A letter, brochure and flyer were mailed out to all current sophomore mentors and mentees earlier this month. Current, interested sophomores can apply at this [link](#).
- **Junior Mentors:** Juniors throughout our partner schools have already taken or will be taking the ACT in their buildings in the weeks to come. Note that students will have the ability to retake these exams multiple times for free.
- **Senior Mentors:** By now, senior MCOCP participants should have completed and submitted all of their college admissions applications. From this point forward, they should be checking their emails and college portals on a regular basis for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation.
- **Senior Mentors:** Our selective partner colleges -- UD, Miami and OU -- will be notifying MCOCP Scholars of their decisions soon. Students selected for these specific spots will begin making their decisions by mid-March.

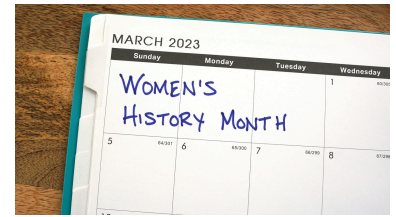




March Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

March 2025 weather can't decide if it is living up to its reputation as a "lion" or "lamb," but that isn't stopping all of the reasons to celebrate this month. Time leaps forward an hour and the days are growing longer! While March is best known for Saint Patrick's Day and Women's History Month, there are other days to commemorate as well:

- National Sloppy Joe Day, 3/18/25
- National Common Courtesy Day, 3/21/25
- American Diabetes Association Alert Day, 3/25/25
- World Theater Day, 3/27/25
- National Tator Day, 3/31/25



OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some suggested ideas for activities to do with your mentee in the coming weeks. The following searchable websites provide a more comprehensive listing:



- [Dayton Local.com](#)
- [Dayton Daily News Dayton.com](#)
- [Downtown Dayton Partnership](#)
- [Destination Dayton](#)
- [Dayton 937](#)
- [Dayton Metro Library](#)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](#)

- Scene 75 Entertainment Center, Dayton -- Ongoing
- Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Dayton -- Ongoing
- National Museum of the United States Air Force -- Ongoing
- Skateworld of Vandalia or Skateworld of Kettering -- Ongoing
- Level Up Pinball Bar (and Arcade) -- Ongoing
- Great Escape Game -- Ongoing
- 7th Annual Sweet Spring Marketplace at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds -- 3/22/25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 3/23/25, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- University of Dayton New Horizons Intergenerational Orchestras Concert at [Roger Glass Center for the Arts](#) -- 3/22/25, 1 p.m.
- Teen Tabletop Takeover at the Main Library Branch -- 3/24/25, 4-5 p.m.
- [Adventure Speaker Series: The Mortells](#) at Wright State University, Student Union -- 3/19/25, 7-8:30 p.m.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- “8 Common Mistakes Made on the FAFSA” (*U.S. News & World Report*)
- “At Least 10 Student Loan And Federal Aid Programs Run By The Department Of Education May Be Cut” (*Forbes*)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- “What's in SB 1, Ohio's higher education overhaul?” (*The Columbus Dispatch*)
- “Professors teaching Gen Z say they're more anxious than millennials and have already given up on the American Dream” (*Fortune*)

College Admissions

- “College enrollment now higher than pre-pandemic levels” (*The Hill*)
- “College isn't dead to Gen Z yet. Enrollment just hit a post-pandemic high” (*Fast Company*)

College Access & Success

- “Wanted: More young men enrolling in college” (*Deseret News*)
- “Study Reveals Key Factors Driving Student College Choice in 2025” (*Diverse Issues In Higher Education*)

College Value & Affordability

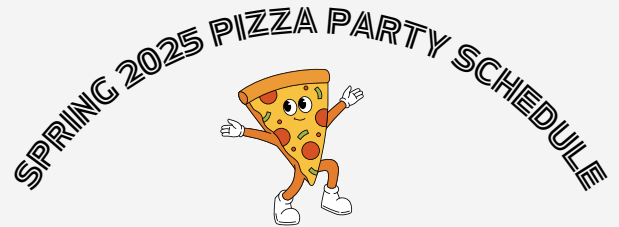
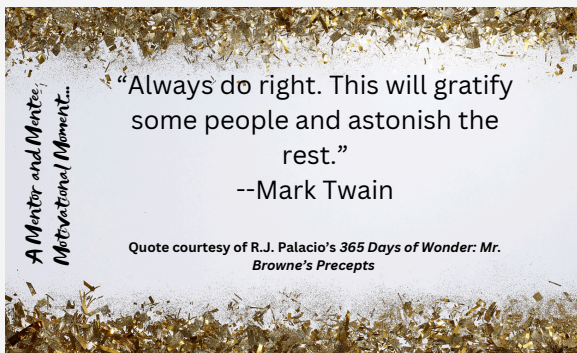
- “OPINION: College is worth it for most students, but its benefits are not equitable” (*The Hechinger Report*)

College & Career Readiness

- “New Data Reveals Just How Deep The College Crisis Goes” (*Forbes*)
- “Bosses are firing Gen Z grads just months after hiring them—here's what they say needs to change” (*Fortune*)

Podcasts & Interviews

- “How FAFSA Got Fixed” (*Today's Students, Tomorrow's Talent*)
- “Why Parent Matterz with Rhona Vega!” (*Application to Admission*)



School	Date, Time & Location
Belmont High School	Tuesday, 4/1/25, 10:45a-11:15a (Tentatively Room 1106, TBD - subject to change)
Brookville High School	Wednesday, 4/9/25, 11:50a-12:50p (Conference Room)
Butler High School	Monday, 3/24/25, 12:30p-1:00p (Conference Room, Guidance Counseling Office)
Carroll High School	Friday, 4/4/25, 11:00a-12:20p (Conference Room, Main Office)
Centerville High School	Tuesday, 3/18/25, 11:15a-12:45p (West Conference Room)
Chaminade Julianne High School (CJ)	Monday, 3/31/25, 11:00a-11:30a (St. Joe's Conference Room)
Dayton Early College Academy (DECA)	Tuesday, 4/15/25, 11:30a-12:45p (Gateway 1 Room)
Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS)	Thursday, 4/24/25, 12:35p-1:25p (Conference Room, Cafeteria or Main Office)
Dixie High School	Friday, 3/28/25, 11:30a-12:30p (Library)
East Dayton Christian	Tuesday, 4/22/25, 1:00p-1:30p (The Concession Stand)
Fairmont High School	Friday, 4/11/25, 12:00p-1:00p (Library)
Meadowdale High School	Wednesday, 3/12/25, 11:45a-1:00p (Multipurpose Room)
Miamisburg High School	Friday, 4/18/25, 10:25a-10:55a (Viking Conference Room)
Northmont High School	Friday, 3/14/25, 11:30a-12:30p (IMC - Rooms 3110 & 3112, Media Center)
Northridge High School	Tuesday, 3/11/25, 11:25a-12:00p (Red Room, Administrative Offices)
Ponitz High School	Thursday, 3/20/25, 11:30a-1:15p (Panther Cafe)
Stebbins High School	Wednesday, 3/19/25, 11:25a-12:25p (Library or Room 191)
Stivers School for the Arts	Monday, 4/14/25, 11:35a-12:40p (Conference Room, Main Office)
Wayne High School	Thursday, 4/10/25, 11:30a-1:00p (Multipurpose Room, Cafeteria)
West Carrollton High School	Wednesday, 3/26/25, 12:15p-12:45p (Library)



- **Parent Matterz (Exposure and Opportunities LLC)**
- **Encourage** (An Encourage app is available too.)