



# MENTORING THIS MONTH

AUGUST 2025  
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# August



**M**ontgomery County Ohio College Promise (MCOCP) is commemorating a milestone – its 15th anniversary! For wedding anniversaries, traditional gifts include wood and glass, which symbolize strength and durability as well as clarity and transformation, respectively. These characteristics are befitting descriptors of MCOCP. When the program initially began, it was proposed to last for 10 years, or 10 cohorts. Now, it has been funded to provide for 20 cohorts (and hopefully, many more). Learn more about the history on page four.

On a related note, the MCOCP team welcomed 57 members of the Class of 2029 and their mentors into the 15th cohort during the annual Celebrating Success dinner, held on 8/4/25. As the 2025-2026 school year commences, Patrick, Jenni and Kyra are looking forward to working with you. Feel free to reach out as needed.

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While a little respite is necessary to recharge, the MCOCP team is always glad to start another school year and work with new and returning scholars and mentors. And, in this season of new beginnings, Jenni is gearing up to meet with all seniors in the fall at their schools to prepare them for the college admissions and FAFSA application processes. This year, senior MCOCP participants will have the opportunity to add Bowling Green State University, University of Findlay, and Ohio Wesleyan University as prospective choices.

Remember to review the “Mentor Reminders” segment for important resources, events, dates, and programming notes. Further, in “News You Can Use,” find trending articles and podcasts on higher education and related matters. This current issue will feature financial assistance, student mental health, career exploration, college value, and college readiness topics. Enjoy the read – or listen!



# AUGUST DISCUSSION TOPICS

- If you could build a dream house, what would it look like?
- What is your favorite season? What do you like about it?
- If you were to be granted one wish, what would it be and why?
- Who is or was your favorite teacher and why?

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

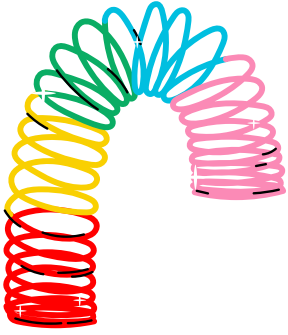
For more information about the On Our Sleeves® initiative and other resources, visit:

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

- **All-Class Mentors:** Please be sure to download the [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (under the Resources heading) for future use. It can also be found in a [PDF](#) format. Remember, if you transport your mentee, you'll need to return a copy of this form -- **prior to each event** -- to Jenni and/or Kyra. It will be included in your mentee's files.
- **All-Class Mentors:** *For mentors of DPS high school students*, please contact the MCOCP staff if your mentee needs an RTA bus pass.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Please be on the lookout for forthcoming information on how and when to commence mentoring for the 2025-26 school year. You will receive a letter, school calendar, and liaison contact information via USPS. Most local schools begin in mid-to-late August through early September (right after Labor Day). See start dates on page four. The best practice is to give your mentee a couple of weeks to get settled into his or her school routine before scheduling your first visit. You can certainly work with your respective school liaison on setting up your meeting (especially for new mentors), but if you have an established process already, feel free to coordinate directly with your mentee.
- **All-Class Mentors:** We have t-shirts for all MCOCP mentors. If you'd like one, please feel free to call or email Jenni and/or Kyra and provide your size. We'll leave it at the front desk in our offices for you to pick up.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Do you need to reach the MCOCP team? Here is their contact information: Patrick Gill, Executive Director (**937.225.9922** or [pgill@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:pgill@daytonfoundation.org)), Jenni Guanciale, Program Coordinator (**937.225.9957** or [jguanciale@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:jguanciale@daytonfoundation.org)), or Kyra Robinson, Student Support Specialist (**937.225.9935** or [krobinson@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:krobinson@daytonfoundation.org)). Please note that Kyra is part-time and in the office from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- **All-Class Mentors:** MCOCP will soon be on LinkedIn! Once the profile is up and running, the MCOCP team will let you know so that you can follow us and like and/or share our posts. Stay tuned!
- **Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Mentors:** Kyra and Jenni plan to visit with underclassmen (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) at their respective schools during the month of October to touch base and see how they're doing.
- **Junior Mentors:** Patrick has sent out biennial background check renewal details to you via email. By now, Sterling Volunteers should have notified you. Please complete the process as soon as possible. If you did not receive the email from Sterling Volunteers, check your spam folder or reach out to Patrick.
- **Senior Mentors:** In early Fall, Jenni will be visiting with seniors (Class of 2026) as they begin the college application process. Please tell your mentees that their high school liaisons will notify them when she will be in their building. [Let them know that it is absolutely critical that they attend this meeting to learn about various Fall deadlines they must meet and other important information.](#)
- **Senior Mentors:** Any seniors interested in attending Miami University **MUST** attend the Fall Bridges overnight event at the university. It is **mandatory**. Jenni will share more details with the senior MCOCP scholars, but the **application** deadline is due 9/26/25. **NOW** is the time for them to start completing the application. Questions? Please reach out to Jenni for more information.



## August Fun Facts and Dates to Remember



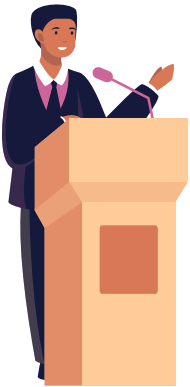
While August is often associated with back-to-school and related activities, it is also known as National Immunization Month and Pedestrian Safety Month. There are some other neat and interesting days to celebrate this month as well:

- National Roller Coaster Day, 8/16/25
- National Lemonade Day, 8/20/25
- National Senior Citizens Day, 8/21/25
- National Waffle Day, 8/24/25
- National Dog Day, 8/26/25
- Slinky Day, 8/30/25



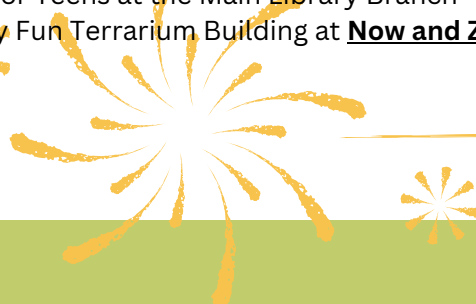
## OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

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](#)
- [DO STEM Near Me](#)

- 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
- CozyMelts – Ongoing
- Carillon Historical Park – Ongoing
- Dayton African American Cultural Festival at Riverscape MetroPark – 8/16/25, 12-8 p.m. and 8/17/25, 12-6 p.m.
- Art for All Day at The Dayton Art Institute – 8/17/25, 12-5 p.m.
- **Fiberworks** at the Main Library Branch – 8/21/25, 4-5 p.m.
- Bites in the Heights at Rose Music Center – 8/23/25, 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Taco and Nacho Fest at Austin Landing – 8/23/25, 3-10 p.m.
- STEAM for Teens at the Main Library Branch – 8/28/25, 4-5 p.m.
- Uniquely Fun Terrarium Building at **Now and Zen Terrarium DIY Studio** – 8/30/25, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**General & Miscellaneous Education**

- [“College parents speak out in new survey: Weekly updates, mental health info and more access needed” \(Higher Ed Dive\)](#)
- [“‘People need those’: WSU students, faculty react to closure of identity centers, S.B. 1” \(Dayton Daily News\)](#)

**FAFSA & Financial Assistance**

- [“How to Pay for College Without Loans” \(U.S. News & World Report\)](#)

**College Value & Affordability**

- [“Modern College Students Face Financial Fragility While Still Valuing Higher Education” \(Diverse Issues In Higher Education\)](#)
- [“College students – and those not enrolled – see the value in higher education” \(Higher Ed Dive\)](#)

**Student Mental Health**

- [“College Students Face Mental Health Crisis as 51% Rate Well-Being as Poor, New Survey Reveals” \(Diverse Issues In Higher Education\)](#)

**College & Career Readiness**

- [“Majority of high schoolers say they don’t feel prepared for post-graduation” \(Higher Ed Dive\)](#)

**Career Exploration**

- [“Kids are ditching traditional college for career tech programs. Parents are concerned.” \(USA Today\)](#)

**Podcasts & Interviews**

- [“Children Will Listen” \(Admissions Beat\)](#)
- [“How Not to Get into the College of Your Choice” \(Admissions Beat\)](#)
- [“The Demographic Cliff” \(College Uncovered\)](#)
- [“How school districts are preparing for a future without the Education Department” \(NPR\)](#)

## Montgomery County Ohio College Promise – A History in the Making for 15 Years and Counting

Montgomery County Ohio College Promise is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John N. and Connie Taylor created the program out of a desire to help young people have an opportunity to go to college and be successful. John shared that he would not have been able to graduate from college and become a successful businessman if his family had not helped him pay for his education. John and Connie witnessed the impact of college access programs in other communities, and they wanted to provide that opportunity to students locally.

In 2010, the Taylor family worked with local leaders to get the program off the ground. These individuals included Ned Sifferlen, Sinclair Community College President Emeritus and former Board Chair for the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program, and Mike Parks, President of The Dayton Foundation. They soon hired retired Centerville City Schools Superintendent Gary Smiga to serve as the founding Executive Director.

Together, the team designed the program and launched a campaign to raise \$6.2 million to fund 500 students over 10 years. Those leaders raised

\$6.4 Million through the generous gifts from individuals and organizations in the community. The first cohort of College Promise (CP) Scholars started high school in 2011.

The program has continued beyond those initial 500 students. Over 750 students have had the opportunity to have a mentor and pursue their college education at a regional partner college or university.

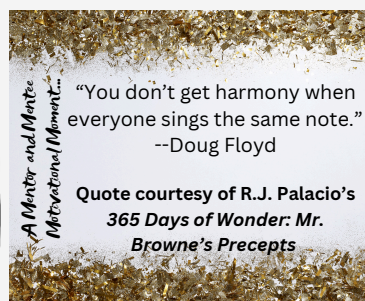
After the organization met another capital campaign goal of \$2.75 million to extend the program through 20 cohorts, the program

has raised \$10 million since its inception. And, the program mission has remained the same. To date, 65% of CP graduates have earned a college degree or marketable credential with little to no debt.

The current team is Executive Director Patrick Gill, who took over in 2017, Program Coordinator Jenni Guanciale, who has been with MCOCOP since its founding, and Student Support Specialist Kyra Robinson, who has served in her role for nearly two years.

## School Start Dates 2025-2026 School Year

| School Name                                   | Start Date  |
|---|---|
| Brookville                                    | August 19   |
| Butler  | September 2   |
| Carroll                                       | August 14   |
| Centerville                                   | August 13   |
| Chaminade Julianne                            | August 14   |
| Dayton Early College Academy (DECA)           | August 12   |
| Dayton Public Schools (DPS)                   | August 12 (1 <sup>st</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grades)<br>August 13 (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades)  |
| Dixie   | August 20   |
| East Dayton Christian                         | August 27   |
| Fairmont                                      | August 14 (1 <sup>st</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Grades)<br>August 15 (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades) |
| Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) | August 11 (11 <sup>th</sup> Grade)<br>August 12 (12 <sup>th</sup> Grade)                                      |
| Miamisburg                                    | August 11   |
| Northmont                                     | August 13   |
| Northridge                                    | August 19   |
| Oakwood                                       | August 13   |
| Stebbins                                      | September 2   |
| The Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS)        | August 13   |
| Trotwood-Madison                              | August 11   |
| Valley View                                   | August 19 (1 <sup>st</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grades)<br>August 20 (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades)  |
| Wayne   | August 18 (9 <sup>th</sup> Grade)<br>August 19 (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades)                    |
| West Carrollton                               | August 20   |



## COLLEGE ACCESS CORNER



- [Montgomery County ESC College Access](#)
- [Understanding the Choices Foundation](#)

MCOCOP Mission: “Montgomery County Ohio College Promise identifies, selects, and supports Montgomery County, economically disadvantaged students, who have shown promise, so their dream of attending and graduating from college becomes a reality.”