



MENTORING THIS MONTH

OCTOBER 2025
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

October



Mum's the word...or is it? Shout it from the rooftops – it's October! Are you gearing up to "fall" into the change of seasons and enjoy Halloween, harvest festivals, and more? No matter how you decide to celebrate, this is a beautiful time of the year.

It's also the month when the first quarter of the 2025-26 school year will wrap for our MCOCP Scholars. As grade reports come in and can be reviewed and scanned, you'll see them in your inbox. Keep in mind that some school liaisons print them out for mentors too, so you may receive them more than once.

The MCOCP team has started making their rounds to visit with students during their

annual "Drive-through Check-ins." These quick interactions allow Jenni, Patrick and Kyra a brief moment to touch base with scholars. Students will also be able to "trick or treat" from the baskets of goodies they'll have on hand too!

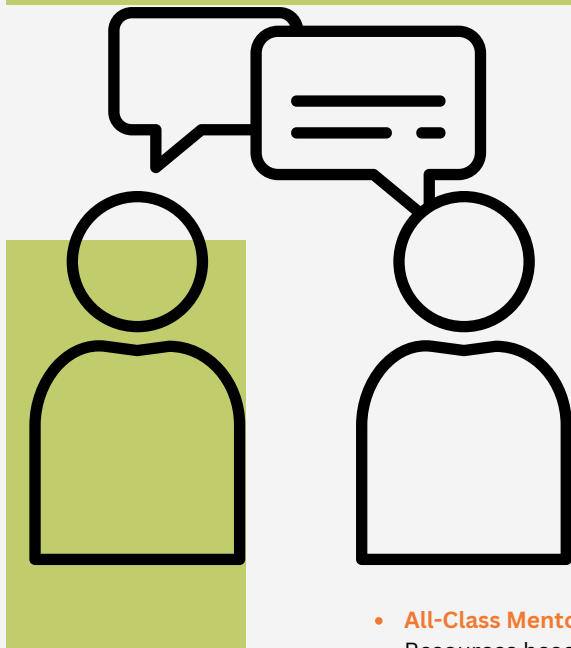
If you don't read anything else in this issue, please don't miss the "Mentor Reminders." There is always something of great importance in this segment for everyone. Be sure to check out some of the fun events and activities to do too, in "Outside of School." Find various trending news topics on page four, including articles on enrollment issues, chronic school absenteeism, AI and college applications, foster youth and more.

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OCTOBER DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Do you have a favorite book? What did you enjoy the most about it?
- When you're sad or down, what do you think about to make yourself happy again?
- What are your three least favorite things to do?
- Is there an old friend that you would love to see? 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:** We still have plenty of 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:** MCOCP is on LinkedIn! This is a friendly nudge and plea to ask those of you on this platform to follow us and like and share our posts. We'd love to get additional exposure in your networks! With any luck, more visibility may also help with mentor recruitment and connect us with potential donors.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Please remind your mentees that if they hope to be inducted into the National Honor Society during high school, they must remain active in various school, community, or faith-based groups or organizations in order to be eligible. Additionally, participation in these extracurricular activities will help to build their activities resume when they are applying to college or other opportunities.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Central State University's College Preview Day will be on Saturday, 10/25/25. This event is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and will feature an academic showcase, meet and greet with faculty and staff, information sessions, student organizations, and more. Participants will also receive a ticket to the football game. Register [here](#).
- **All-Class Mentors:** The Greater Dayton Area College & Career Fair returns to Wright State University's Nutter Center on Thursday, 10/30/25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Free to the public, attendees can [preregister](#).
- **All-Class Mentors:** The [Q2 Mentor Roundtable](#) will be held on Tuesday, 11/4/25. Join us from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to learn more about program updates, ask questions or simply fellowship with other MCOCP mentors. The virtual meeting will be via Zoom at this [link](#) (**Meeting ID: 841 7369 3481; Passcode: 385209**).
- **All-Class Mentors:** Nurturing Community Cultivating Justice's (NCCJ) Fall 2025 Anytown Youth Leadership Retreat will be held Friday, 11/14/25 through Sunday, 11/16/25 at Camp Lebanon Retreat Center. It is free and open to high school students, but they must [register](#). According to the website: "Delegates can attend one Anytown Retreat, and one Anytown Institute over their high school career." In need of more information? [Email](#) or call 937.222.6225.
- **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.
- **Junior Mentors:** Miami University is hosting one more [Fall Open House](#) event on Friday, 10/31/25. Registration remains open. See the link above for more information. Per the website, "the October date is designed for a 'build your own' schedule."
- **Senior Mentors:** The 2026-2027 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is open! Students AND their guardian/parent must request their individual FSA IDs so that they will have it on hand prior to completing the FAFSA. They can do so at this link: [FSA Create Account](#). Please remind your scholar about this crucial step.
- **Senior Mentors:** The 2025 University of Dayton Flyer Promise Scholars College Promise Overview Night will be held on Thursday, 10/23/25 from 6-8 p.m. Students can learn more and register at this [link](#). Questions? Contact [Seth Jones](#), Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admission.



October Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

October is known for more than ghosts and goblins. It is also National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you're looking for other ways to commemorate, see some neat ideas below.

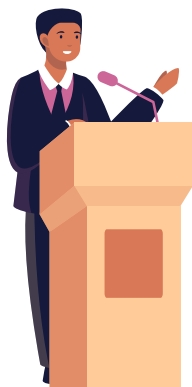


- Happy Sweetest Day, 10/18/25
- National Youth Confidence Day, 10/20/25
- Clean up the Earth Day, 10/22/25
- World Pasta Day, 10/25/25
- National Oatmeal Day, 10/29/25
- National Candy Corn Day, 10/30/25



OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some **suggested** ideas for activities to do with your mentee in the coming weeks. **Note that outside events aren't mandatory, but rather optional.** The following searchable websites provide a more comprehensive listing:



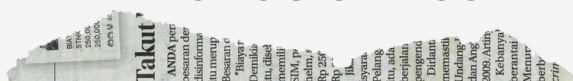
- [Dayton Local.com](http://DaytonLocal.com)
- [Dayton Daily News Dayton.com](http://DaytonDailyNewsDayton.com)
- [Downtown Dayton Partnership](http://DowntownDaytonPartnership)
- [Destination Dayton](http://DestinationDayton)
- [Dayton 937](http://Dayton937)
- [Dayton Metro Library](http://DaytonMetroLibrary)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](http://FiveRiversMetroParks)
- [DO STEM Near Me](http://DOSTEMNearMe)

- 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
- “Don’t Ghost Your Feelings” Youth Mental Health Fair at Delco Park Meeting Place – 10/18/25, 12-2 p.m. **(This event is billed as free and fun with arts and crafts, yoga, therapy dogs, and more.)**
- Employment Opportunity Center’s Cowboy Carnival Annual Harvest Fest – 10/18/25, 12-5 p.m. **(Location: 4303 W. Third Street).**
- Sinclair Community Bands Concert, [The Leaves are Falling](#), in Blair Hall Theatre – 10/19/25, 3-5 p.m.
- [STEAM for Teens -- Halloween Slime](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 10/23/25, 4-5 p.m. **(Registration required due to limited space.)**
- Pick Your Own Pumpkins at Young’s Jersey Dairy – 10/25/25, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- DCDC Concert, [Reflections](#), at Victoria Theatre – 10/25/25, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and 10/26/25, 4-6 p.m.
- [National Make A Difference Day](#) at Five Rivers MetroParks locations – 10/25/25, 9 a.m.-Noon. **(Register via phone 937-275-7275 or email.)**



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

**General & Miscellaneous Education**

- [“Lower Birth Rates Could Cause Enrollment Issues for Schools”](#) (EdSurge)
- [“7 insights about chronic absenteeism, a new normal for American schools”](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- [“Adding bus stops, serving biscuits and gravy, and catching butterflies: How schools are tackling absenteeism”](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- [“What Will Medicaid Cuts Mean For School Health and Wellness Services?”](#) (EdSurge)

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- [“How ED cuts have tested financial aid offices”](#) (University Business)
- [“Applying for college financial aid? Here’s what’s different about this year’s FAFSA”](#) (PBS NewsHour)

Student Mental Health

- [“New Survey Reveals Incoming College Students Prioritize Mental Health and Connection Over Academic Concerns”](#) (The EduLedger, formerly Diverse Issues in Higher Education)

Admissions Articles

- [“Are High School Counselors Encouraging AI for College Applications?”](#) (EdSurge)
- [“7 Steps to Choosing the Right College”](#) (U.S. News & World Report)
- [“The Common App: Everything You Need to Know”](#) (U.S. News & World Report)

College Access & College Success

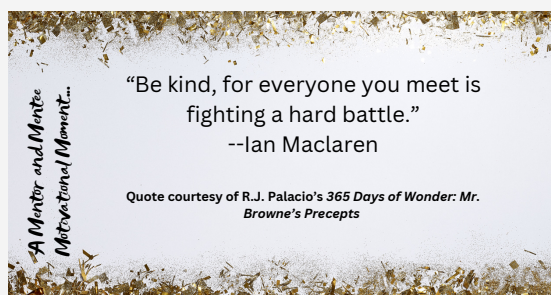
- [“It’s Time to Recruit Foster Youth to College Like We Do Division I Athletes”](#) (The Imprint)

College & Career Readiness

- [“1 in 2 graduates say their college major didn’t prepare them for today’s market”](#) (Higher Ed Dive)

Podcasts & Interviews

- [“Work Forces Rewind: Scott Carlson and Ned Laff on Hacking College”](#) (Work Forces, sponsored by the Lumina Foundation)
- [“Seniors, It’s Time to Pivot from Discovery to Applying!”](#) (Admissions Beat)



- [College Scorecard](#)
- [Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education \(SOCHE\)](#)