



MENTORING THIS MONTH

MARCH 2026
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3



It's March...and the "madness" has begun! As the Miami Valley prepares to host another NCAA First Four men's basketball tournament and you're completing your brackets, one thing remains certain: MCOCP continues to bet on all of its scholars. With our incomparable team of educators, liaisons, mentors, donors, and other supporters, we know that our program participants will win! Mentors, thank you for encouraging, motivating, and inspiring your mentees every step of the way and keeping them in the game.

We're now past halftime and entering the fourth quarter of the academic year. Scholars may be a little tired, momentum may slow, and energy may wane but never underestimate the comeback! They'll be victorious in the end. And, with spring arriving on 3/20/26, hopefully, students will look forward to renewal, growth, fresh starts and new possibilities. The end-of-the-year countdown has begun!

Don't miss the mentor reminders, activities, pizza party schedule, and news on trending education topics – financial aid, higher education challenges on the horizon, AI's impact on students, and more – in this issue. Since the April MTM will be delivered to your inbox after Easter, we're wishing you a Happy Easter.



Top to bottom College Promise Scholar Night photos: Patrick and MCOCP Board member Catherine Hernandez Hogan with MCOCP WSU students, college fair participants, and Bottom Line's James Cosby.

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MARCH DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What do you enjoy doing with your family?
- Who are your friends? What characteristics do you admire most in your friends and why?
- What is something you do that inspires others to be better people?
- What is your favorite household chore? What is your least favorite household chore? Why?

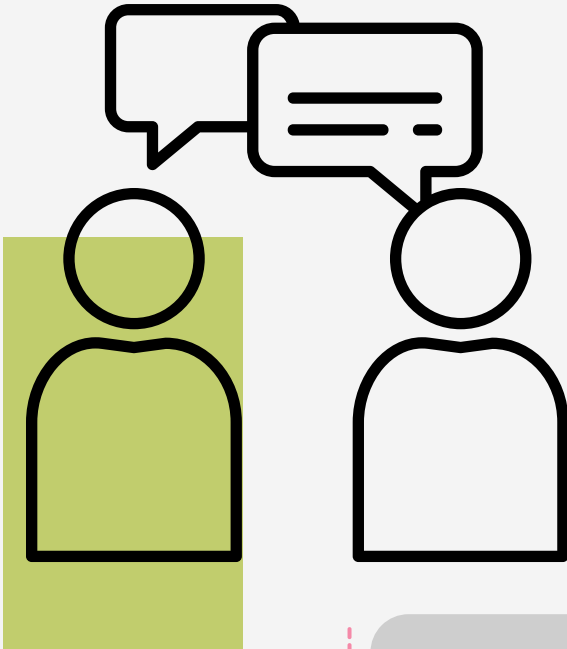
(Sources for some questions: *Family Talk* game and Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves® conversation starter cards.)

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](#)

More Engagement Opportunities (from the Q3 Mentor Roundtable):

- Task your mentee with interviewing you.
- Discuss weekend plans.
- Read an interesting book or article together and discuss it.
- Play a quick round of a board game.



Announcement:
The "MCOCP in the News...Caught Doing Good" form was emailed to all mentors and school liaisons recently. If your mentee has noteworthy news, please be sure to submit your nominations.

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.
- Join us for lunch! The annual mentor-mentee MCOCP pizza parties have begun and will continue throughout April. The details were emailed, but you can also view the schedule on page 4. Please share the date and time with your mentees.
- If your mentee needs extra help with homework assignments, remember that the Dayton Metro Library offers assistance through their [Homework Help Centers](#) at various local branches. See the link for locations, days and times.
- Please ensure that you're not meeting during state testing, Spring Break, or other days when school is not in session.
- 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.
- We're adding another college partner to our growing list! Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, our Class of 2027 MCOCP Scholars can consider Indiana University East, in Richmond, as another option.
- We have chosen 55 students for our 16th Cohort. If you know someone who may be interested in serving as a mentor for this incoming group of MCOCP Scholars, please let Patrick know.
- Sinclair Community College's STEM Open House will be held on 3/28/26 from 9-11 a.m. in Building 12. Students can explore 93 STEM majors and learn more about careers in aviation, manufacturing, cybersecurity, engineering, automotive, and more. There will also be tours of classrooms and labs and opportunities to interact with faculty. Interested students should [RSVP](#).

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. An email and application were sent to all sophomore mentors in mid-February. Current, interested sophomores can learn more and download an application [here](#). Contact Taylor Walker via [email](#) or 937.754.9622. for more details.

Sophomore and Junior Mentors:

Miami University is hosting its spring Day of Champions on 4/1/26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Students can learn more about college, take a tour, and talk with students about their Miami experience. Attendees must provide their own transportation. If interested, contact Jenni **AND** register. Email [Jatayzia Agee](#) or [Ashley Lomax](#) for more information.

Junior Mentors:

Juniors are taking the ACT in their buildings in the weeks to come. Students will have the ability to retake these exams multiple times.

Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Mentors:

"Innovations of our Past and our Future," a summer camp sponsored by Sinclair Community College's Women in STEM (WiSTEM), will take place 6/8/26-6/12/26. 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. Questions? [click here](#) or call 937.512.4861.

Senior Mentors:

- As college acceptance letters roll in, MCOCP scholars should let Jenni know where they have been admitted. Further, they should be checking their emails and college portals regularly for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation. Decision time is around the corner!
- Our selective partner colleges – UD, Miami and OU – have notified MCOCP Scholars of their decisions. Students selected for these specific spots will begin making their decisions by mid-March.

March Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

While St. Patrick's Day is one of the first things that comes to mind when March arrives, it is also time to celebrate "herstory." March is Women's History Month. It also provides multiple opportunities to indulge your sweet tooth with the arrival of Girl Scout cookies, and not just during Girl Scout Week (3/9-3/13). See below for other special days this month.



Girl Scout Day, 3/12/26

Let's Laugh Day, 3/19/26

National Common Courtesy Day, 3/21/26

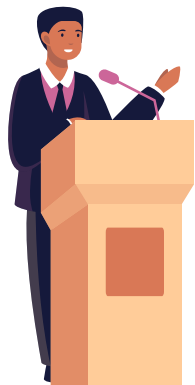
National Chip & Dip Day, 3/23/26

World Theater Day, 3/27/26

National Tator Day, 3/31/26

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](#)
- [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 Ohio Scavenger Hunt: Dayton's Soaring Heights](#) – Ongoing
- [Teen Pi Day Pie Party](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 3/14/26, 3-4:30 p.m.
- [No Blank Canvas Presents: Built to Last - A Behind the Scenes Look at the Life of a Professional Tattoo Artist](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 3/21/26, 2-4 p.m.
- [STEAM for Teens – Cardboard Engineering](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 3/26/26, 4-7 p.m. (Registration is required due to limited spaces.)
- [Bill Blagg: Family Magic](#) at the Victoria Theatre – 3/28/26, 1 & 4 p.m. and 3/29/26, 2 p.m.



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- [“Closing the Retention Gap Through Increases in Financial Aid”](#) (Insight Into Academia)
- [“University of Cincinnati announces new grant providing free tuition for students in families making under \\$75K”](#) (WCPO.com)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- [“Why Are K-12 and Higher Education So Different from Each Other?”](#) (Education Next)
- [“What do college-bound students think of DEI efforts?”](#) (Higher Ed Dive)
- [“7 college presidents on 2026’s top challenges and opportunities”](#) (Higher Ed Dive)
- [“Are Schools Underestimating How Badly the Pandemic Hurt Older K-12 Students?”](#) (EdSurge)

College Value & Affordability

- [“Is college worth the cost? Experts discuss higher education benefits and challenges”](#) (EdSource).
- [“Aligning affordability, value, and trust to make college pay off”](#) (Lumina Foundation)

College & Career Readiness

- [“7 in 10 employers have high confidence in higher ed, survey finds”](#) (Higher Ed Dive)

Podcasts & Interviews

- [“How AI Could Reshape Higher Ed”](#) (Future U)
- [“The Impact of AI on Student Motivation”](#) (Future U/Learning Curve)
- [“Junior Kickoff!”](#) (Admissions Beat)

March and April 2026 Pizza Party Schedule

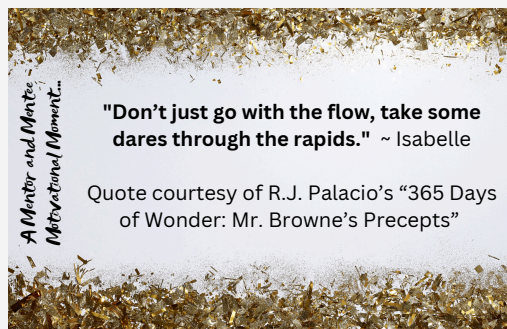
Let's party!



Lunch is on Us!

Let's party!

School	Date and Time	Room/Location
Belmont High School	Thursday, 4/16/26, 11a-12p	Office Back Room (#1103C)
Brookville High School	Friday, 3/20/26, 12:26-1p	Main Office Conference Room
Butler High School	Friday, 4/10/26, 12:30-1p	Guidance Conference Room
Carroll High School	Tuesday, 4/21/26, 11:02-11:32a	Room 209 or CLC
Centerville High School	Wednesday, 3/11/26, 11:30a-12:30p	Central Unit Conference Room
Chaminade Julianne	Wednesday, 4/29/26, 11:34a-12:31p (NOTE: Time may change.)	St. Joe's Conference Room
Dayton Early College Academy (DECA)	Tuesday, 4/7/26, 12-12:45p	Gateway 1 Room
The Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS)	Wednesday, 4/1/26, 12:20-1:12p	Atlantis Conference Room
Dixie High School	Thursday, 3/26/26 11:30a-12:30p	Library
East Dayton Christian School	Wednesday, 4/8/26, 1-1:27p	The Concession Stand
Fairmont High School	Friday, 4/3/26, 12-1p	Library
Meadowdale High School	Tuesday, 4/14/26, 11:38a-12:08p	Main Office Conference Room
Miamisburg High School	Thursday, 4/30/26, 11:15-11:45a	Library
Northmont High School	Friday, 3/13/26, 11:30a-12:30p	IMC — Rooms 3110 & 3112 (Media Center)
Northridge High School	Monday, 4/20/26, 10:35-11:05a	Red Room
Ponitz High School	Monday, 3/23/26, 12:50-1:20p	Panther Cafe
Stebbins High School	Wednesday, 3/18/26, 11:35a-12:35p	Library
Stivers School for the Arts	Friday, 4/17/26, 11:40a-12:40p	Main Office Conference Room
Thurgood Marshall High School	Tuesday, 3/24/26, 11:10-11:40a	Main Library Conference Room
Valley View High School	Tuesday, 3/17/26, 10:59-11:29a	Middle & High School Main Office Conference Room 110
Wayne High School	Thursday, 3/12/26, 11:30a-12:30p	Multipurpose Room (Near the cafeteria)
West Carrollton High School	Thursday, 4/23/26, 11:30a-12:30p	Library



- [Niche](#)
- [College Simply High School GPA Calculator](#)