

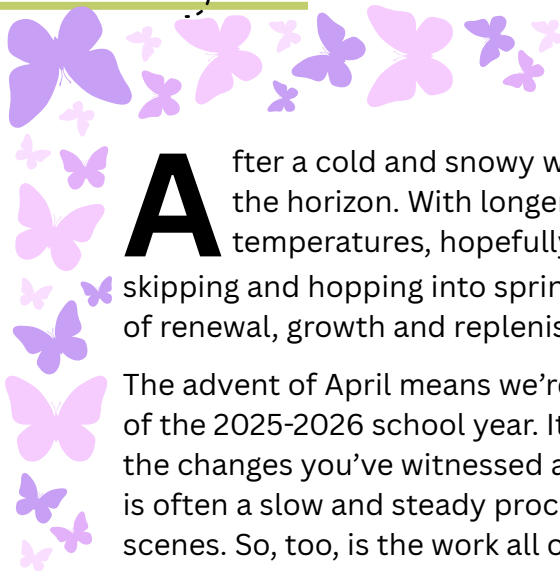


MENTORING THIS MONTH

APRIL 2026
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4



APRIL SHOWERS
Bring
MAY FLOWERS



After a cold and snowy winter, a new season is on the horizon. With longer days and warmer temperatures, hopefully you're running, jumping skipping and hopping into spring! Spring brings a sense of renewal, growth and replenishment.

The advent of April means we're one step closer to the end of the 2025-2026 school year. It is also a time to reflect on the changes you've witnessed and is a reminder that growth is often a slow and steady process that happens behind the scenes. So, too, is the work all of us do each day.

Mentors, each of you plays a unique role in your mentee's life. Some of you may plant the seed, while others water it. But, the end result remains the same: watching with excitement as you see your mentees "bloom where they are planted." Keep nurturing that seed.

We've enjoyed engaging with all of you during our annual pizza parties, and we look forward to the remaining ones this month. Additional fun things to explore are included on page three. On a related note, see page two for important mentor reminders, and tune in to the news topics of the day, including mentorship, financial assistance and college costs, and first-generation college students.



Inside This Issue...



Discussion Topics	2
Mentor Reminders	2
Fun Facts	3
Outside of School	3
News	4
Motivational Moment	4
College Access Corner	4
Pizza Party Schedule	4



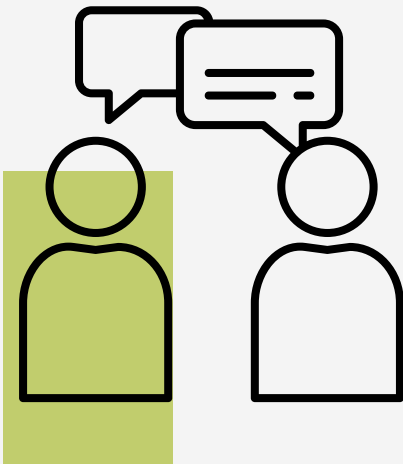
APRIL DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What do you think is the best thing about getting older?
- What scares you the most? Why?
- What artist would you love to see in concert?
- Describe your dream house.

(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](#)



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. You can also find the form [here](#) or on the MCOCP [website](#) under the Resources heading.

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 will continue throughout April. You can view the schedule for remaining dates on page 4. Please share the date and time with your mentees. **CJ mentors, please note a time change.**
- 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.
- 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.
- Central State University's [Spring College Preview Day](#) will be on 4/25/26. See the link for details as well as registration and contact information.
- The WPAFB Educational Outreach Office has many [offerings](#) for youth of all ages on its website.
- Wright State University's Raj Soin College of Business will host a High School Entrepreneurship Camp during Ohio Business Week 2026, 6/21/26-6/26/26. Students will learn leadership and business skills, experience campus life, and hear from guest speakers. The cost is \$499 to [register](#). Send program questions via [email](#). Contact Jenni for financial assistance.

Sophomore and Junior Mentors:

- The [application](#) for Miami University's Summer Scholars Program, a selective program providing a glimpse of the college experience, is open for "academically talented," **rising** high school juniors and seniors. **The application deadline is 5/1/26.** Interested MCOCP Scholars can contact Jenni for registration and financial assistance.
- UD's Female Aspiring Business Scholars (FABS) is hosting an overnight summer camp from 6/28/26-7/1/26 for **rising** high school juniors and seniors interested in business. Regular [registration ends on 5/10/26](#) and is \$300. Financial assistance is available through UD. Learn more [here](#) and [email](#) with questions. Also, touch base with Jenni if help is needed.
- [SEE-UD Summer Engineering Experiences](#) daylong summer camps will be held for Class of 2027 and Class of 2028 students on 6/15/26-6/17/26. Each day is \$100, and UD is offering limited financial assistance. [Contact](#) University of Dayton to learn more or Jenni to inquire how MCOCP can help.

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? [Email](#) or call 937.512.4861.

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.

Junior Mentors:

- Spring and summer months are perfect times for college visits. Encourage your mentees to start researching and exploring colleges of interest to them.
- The Bottom Line [application](#) is now open for the Class of 2027. Bottom Line, one of our partners, assists students with their college admissions essays, the FAFSA, and more. For additional information, [contact](#) them and/or visit the [website](#). **The priority deadline is 6/1/26.**

Senior Mentors:

- 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 Day at most colleges is 5/1 annually.**
- **Seniors should have received a Decision Day Form in the U.S. mail from us. Return the form to us by 5/30/26.**

April Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

By the time you read this, hopefully Spring will have arrived in all of its glory...for good! Even if the Ohio weather continues to show all of the seasons in one week (and sometimes in one day), there are still commemorations worth remembering and celebrating. April is known as Animal Cruelty Prevention Month, Autism Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The week of 4/20/26 is also National Volunteer Week. Check out the list below for more to do.

National Kickball Day, 4/17/26

Pinata Day, 4/18/26

Earth Day, 4/22/26

Movie Theaters Day, 4/23/26

National Superhero Day, 4/28/26

International Day of Jazz, 3/31/26



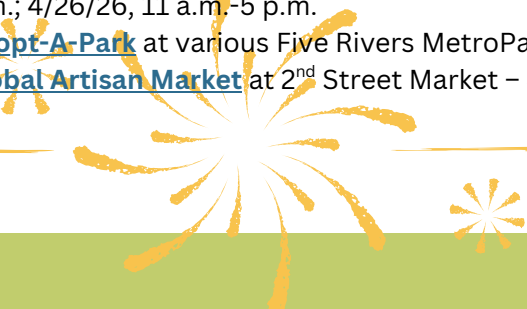
OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

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
- [TreeFest](#) at Kettering's Gentile Nature Park – 4/18/26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- [Engaged: Rings from around the World](#) at the Dayton Art Institute – 4/18/26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- [Sugar Maple Festival](#) in downtown Bellbrook – 4/24/26, 5-10 p.m.; 4/25/26, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; 4/26/26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- [Adopt-A-Park](#) at various Five Rivers MetroParks - 4/25/26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- [Global Artisan Market](#) at 2nd Street Market – 4/26/26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



April 2026 Pizza Party Schedule



Let's party!

Let's party!

Mentoring

- “The Question Every College Applicant Should Ask” (Forbes)
- “Mentors can make the difference for young Black men in college. Here’s how to be a good one.” (WBEZ Chicago)

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- “Families Spend More on College as Affordability Shapes Decisions, New Report Finds” (The EDU Ledger)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- “Should Ohio revisit academic eligibility requirements for College Credit Plus?” (The Thomas B. Fordham Institute)
- “Their value attacked and funding cut, universities and colleges start fighting back” (The Hechinger Report)
- “The Program That’s Turning Schools Around” (The Atlantic)

First-Generation College Students

- “She was a first-generation college grad. Now, she has \$55,000 in student loans and is postponing having kids.” (Business Insider)
- “STUDENT VOICES: Two recent college graduates have a message to their 17-year-old selves: Don’t go it alone” (The Hechinger Report)

College Value & Affordability

- “More students are going to college. Affordability and workforce training are factors” (NPR)
- “Making six figures without a college degree isn’t as simple as it sounds” (Lumina Foundation)

College & Career Readiness

- “Young Americans Face A Career Crash. CEOs Can Fix It.” (Forbes)

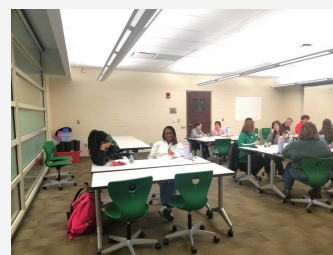
Podcasts & Interviews

- “A Primer on Financial Aid” (Admissions Beat/Grown & Flown)
- “Is Grade Inflation Deflating Trust in Schools?” (Future U)
- “Discovery Starts With Program” (Admissions Beat)
- “Accepted? Denied? Waitlisted?! Now What?!!” (Application to Admission)
- “Navigating April” (Admissions Beat)

School	Date and Time	Room/Location
Belmont High School	Thursday, 4/16/26, 11a-12p	Office Back Room (#1103C)
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
Chaminade Julianne	Wednesday, 4/29/26, 11:04a-12:01p (NOTE: This is an updated time.)	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
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
Northridge High School	Monday, 4/20/26, 10:35-11:05a	Red Room
Stivers School for the Arts	Friday, 4/17/26, 11:40a-12:40p	Main Office Conference Room
West Carrollton High School	Thursday, 4/23/26, 11:30a-12:30p	Library



Pizza Party Pictures (L to R): Wayne, Northmont, and Ponitz



- **Big Future - Paying for College**
- **Grown & Flown**