



MENTORING THIS MONTH

AUGUST 2026
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6



August



Welcome to the fourth annual back-to-school edition of *Mentoring This Month*, the monthly guide for MCOCP mentors. Having the opportunity to reconnect with returning mentors and embrace new ones never grows old! Just three months ago, MCOCP celebrated the Class of 2026, and now staff, mentors and supporters are preparing the Class of 2027 for the college search process and reassuring the Class of 2030 as they transition and adjust to high school. The cycle continues!

This work couldn't be done without you, MCOCP mentors. You are our champions in the field week after week. Thank you for being part of the story for these MCOCP Scholars and another trusted, caring adult who will listen, believe in and encourage them. The journey may have some twists and turns along the way, but success awaits them! Watching your mentees grow, thrive, mature and develop over one school year – and certainly all four years – will be exciting and rewarding.

Patrick, Jenni and Kyra are grateful you are part of the MCOCP family, and they see and value you! As you build relationships with your mentees, they are here to support you and are always an email or phone call away. Their contact information is:

- Patrick Gill
(pgill@daytonfoundation.org or 937.225-9922)
- Jenni Guanciale
(jguanciale@daytonfoundation.org or 937-225-9957)
- Kyra Robinson
(krobinson@daytonfoundation.org or 937-225-9935)

In this issue, you'll find news on financial aid, career exploration, admissions, college success and more. And, be sure to read the "Mentor Reminders" and "Outside of School" segments.

The MCOCP team is happy that you're here. Are you ready to go on this voyage together? Let's get to work, enjoy the ride, and see how it all unfolds.

Inside This Issue...

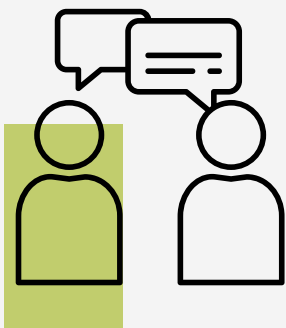


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Pictures: Class of 2030 Mentor Luncheon for the 16th Cohort, held on 7/21/26.





The "MCOCP in the News...Caught Doing Good" form can be found [here](#) or on the MCOCP [website](#) under the Resources heading. If your mentee has noteworthy news, please be sure to submit your nominations.

Please download the [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (under the Resources heading) or in [PDF](#) format. Return a copy of this form – prior to transporting your mentee to any event – to Jenni and/or Kyra.

MCOCP is on LinkedIn! Please [follow](#) us, like and share our posts, and encourage your network to do so too!



AUGUST DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What is your favorite song, movie, or television show? What do you like most about it?
- What was the most interesting activity you did over the summer?
- What is your favorite messy food?
- If you could accomplish one thing, what would it be 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 on the lookout for forthcoming information on how and when to commence mentoring for the 2026-27 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.

Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Mentors:

- Kyra, Jenni and Patrick plan to visit with underclassmen (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) at their respective schools during the month of October for MCOCP's annual drive-through, check-ins. Mentors don't need to be present; this is simply a quick way to touch base and see how they're doing.

Junior & Senior Mentors:

- On Wednesday, 9/9/26, the Dayton Dragons and Day Air Credit Union will host College Prep Night for local students at Day Air Ballpark from 6-8 p.m. This college fair is free, but students must [register](#). Over 70 colleges will be in attendance.

Junior Mentors:

- Patrick has emailed biennial background check renewal details to you. 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.
- Miami University is hosting two [RedHawk Preview Days](#) on Saturday, 9/26/26 and Friday, 10/23/26. Registration is open now. See the link above for more information. Per the website, the September date allows prospective students to explore the academic and student life experiences, while the October date is designed for those who want to customize their visit based on individual interests.

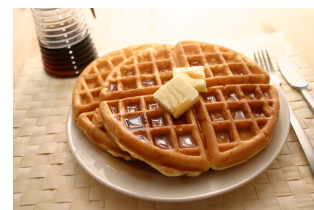
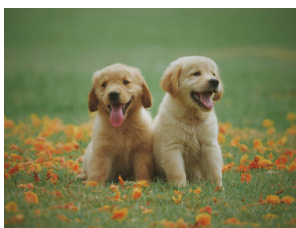
Senior Mentors:

- In early Fall, Jenni will be visiting with seniors (Class of 2027) 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.**
- 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 scholars, but the [application](#) is already open. **NOW** is the time for them to start completing the application, which is due 9/21/26. Round-trip transportation will be provided from Dayton **ONLY** during the third session, 11/8/26-11/9/26. Questions? Reach out to Jenni for more information.

August Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

August has arrived, and it is the only summer month with no official federal holiday to celebrate. Known as the Get Ready for Kindergarten Month and the Pedestrian Safety Month, there are additional unique ways to celebrate and commemorate August, including:

National Relaxation Day, 8/15/26
 National Lemonade Day, 8/20/26
 National Senior Citizens Day, 8/21/26
 National Waffle Day, 8/24/26
 National Dog Day, 8/26/26
 Speak Kind Words Saturday, 8/29/26



OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

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 program and event 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 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
- [Taco & Nacho Fest](#) at Austin Landing – 8/15/26, 3-10 p.m.
- [Collage Night](#) at The Contemporary Dayton – 8/20/22, 5-8 p.m. [Registration](#) is required.
- [Fulton Farm Sweet Corn Festival](#) – 8/22/26, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and 8/23/26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- [STEAM for Teens – Intro to Hydroponic Gardening](#) at Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 8/27/26, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- [FREE ADMISSION: Art For All Day](#) at the Dayton Art Institute – 8/29/26 & 8/30/26, 12-5 p.m.



Bella Miller, a rising junior at Brookville High School and an MCOCP Scholar, has been "caught doing good" by helping some of the younger Brookville learners in her school district. She participates in the community service program and assists elementary students who are struggling academically. And, it isn't just about tutoring them with their schoolwork. She serves as a role model in other ways too.

According to Jenni Phillips, attendance secretary, "Bella has become so invested and got permission from our principal to miss her last academic day here to go help and be with her class during their field day. She also made a point to go watch their talent show, school musical, and even went to some of the evening performances. She has truly invested in younger kids, just like her mentor is investing in her."



MCOCP DAYTON DRAGONS NIGHT

MCOCP mentors, mentees and their families attended the Dayton Dragons and Great Lakes Loons game on 8/4/26.



BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- "Gen Z college students are looking for scholarships on TikTok. There's a better way, experts say" (CNBC)
- "Campus jobs should be lifelines for US students – but pay rates lag behind" (Times Higher Education)
- "Five big changes are coming to higher education July 1" (The Hechinger Report)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- "OPINION: Three-year degrees may become a viable option in the U.S., but questions about their value remain" (The Hechinger Report)

Career Exploration

- "College students are in search of 'AI-proof' majors. But no one knows what they are" (The Associated Press)

First-Generation College Students

- "Let's build a higher education system that works for first-generation students" (Times Higher Education)

Admissions

- "Ahead of the Curve: Video Introductions Offer a Fresh Angle in the College Admissions Process" (U.S. News & World Report)

College Access & Success

- "When families are informed, students stay enrolled" (Higher Ed Dive)
- "The High Cost of Ignoring the Student Transition Experience" (The EDU Ledger)

College Value & Affordability

- "67% of high school graduates opting against college cite cost-of-living concerns, poll finds" (Higher Ed Dive)

College & Career Readiness

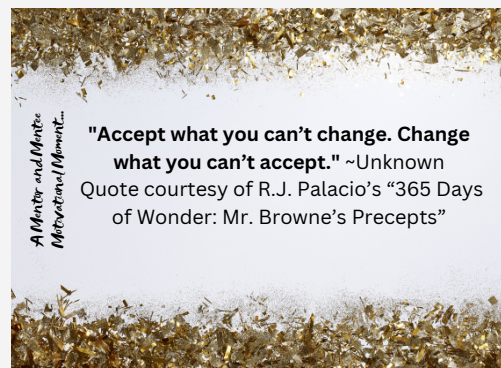
- "Here are the college majors that new grads regret the most, according to a recent survey" (CBS News)

Podcasts & Interviews

- "Guiding the Voyage of Discovery: The College Finder" (Admissions Beat)
- "Voices of Student Success: What's Driving the Student Mental Health Crisis?" (The Key with Inside Higher Ed)

School Start Dates**2026-2027 School Year**

School Name	Start Date
Brookville	August 18
Butler	September 8
Carroll	August 12 (Grade 9) August 13 (Grades 10-12)
Centerville	August 12
Chaminade Julianne (CJ)	August 13
Dayton Early College Academy (DECA)	August 11
Dayton Public Schools (DPS)	August 11 (Grade 9) August 12 (Grades 10-12)
Dixie	August 20
East Dayton Christian	August 26 (Grades 9-12)
Fairmont	August 13 (Grades 9-10) August 14 (Grades 11-12)
Miamisburg	August 12
Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC)	August 10 (Grade 11) August 11 (Grade 12)
Northmont	August 24
Northridge	August 17
Oakwood	August 12 (Grades 9-12)
Stebbins	September 8 (Grades 9-12)
The Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS)	August 12
Trotwood-Madison	August 17
Valley View	August 18 (Grade 9) August 19 (Grades 10-12)
Wayne	September 8
West Carrollton	August 19



- **Montgomery County ESC College Access**
- **The College Finder**