



MENTORING THIS MONTH

JANUARY 2025
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January

2025

Hello 2025! Happy New Year and welcome back to the MCOCP mentor and school liaison family! It's a new year, new day, and one-fourth of the way through the 21st century. A mere 25 years ago, we were worried about the changes that would come with the advent of Y2K. Today, we're experiencing technological advances that were beyond our wildest imaginations at the turn of this current century.

“As the world continues to turn” and with each passing day, we realize that this current school year is halfway over. Second quarter has ended for our MCOCP Scholars, so grade reports will be available and distributed in the coming weeks. And, in just a few short months, we will welcome spring and celebrate milestones during commencement ceremonies.



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This first issue of the new year will shine the spotlight on FAFSA, student mental health, college value and affordability and more topics. Be sure to pay particular close attention to the Mentor Reminders so that you don't miss out on important details to share with your mentees.

We're thrilled to enter 2025 in partnership with you! Let's keep working together for the benefit of our students and their families.

HAPPY New Year

JANUARY DISCUSSION TOPICS

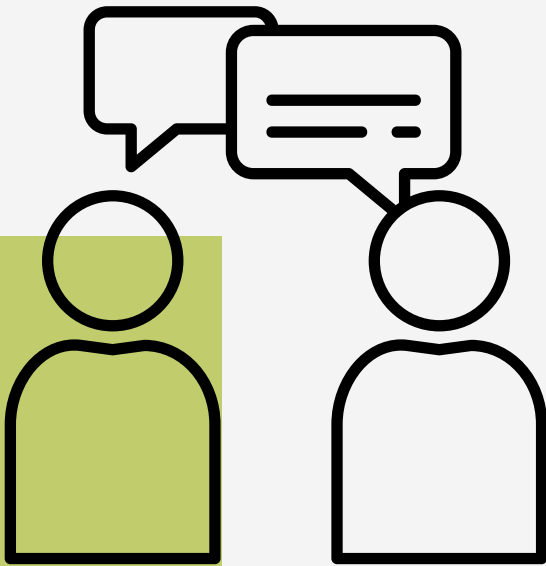
- When you feel sad, what do you think about to make yourself feel happy again?
- If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it?
- What is or was your favorite toy? Why?
- What kind of compliment means the most to you?

(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:** Several mentors have inquired about where to find the Youth Transportation Release Form. It can be found at either of these links: [Youth Transportation Release](#) (under the Resources heading) or [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (PDF). Please be sure to download this document for future use. Also, remember that 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:** During the most recent quarterly Mentor Roundtables, mentors were introduced to Level All, "a college and career readiness platform designed to improve postsecondary outcomes for people on all journeys." Level All is partnering with Montgomery County Ohio College Promise to give their platform to members of our community for free. **As a mentor, you should already have your Level All account at this point and have encouraged your mentee to create one as well.** [Emily Cutcliffe, A Level All representative, has provided the following videos to assist you and your mentee in the process: \[Assigning Your Mentee to You\]\(#\) and \[Mentee/Student Invitations to Parent/Guardian\]\(#\).](#)
- **All-Class Mentors:** Please remember to check the school calendar to ensure that you're not meeting on MLK Day, Presidents' Day in February, or other days when school is not in session.
- **All-Class Mentors:** With Spring around the corner, we hope to host the pizza parties again with mentees and mentors as a group during the lunch period at the schools. Additional details will be forthcoming in the future.
- **All-Class Mentors:** It's mentor recruitment time! We will be selecting our new, 15th Cohort MCOCP Scholars at the end of February 2025. If you know of someone who may be interested in serving as a mentor for this incoming group of mentees, please let Patrick know. We recognize that we can't start too early in the mentor recruitment process.
- **Sophomore Mentors:** Recently, sophomores across Montgomery County had the opportunity to visit the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) and explore the school and its programs as an option for them during their junior and senior high school years. **Please note that MCOCP students can apply and attend MVCTC (or their school's equivalent), if admitted. At present, we have several program participants enrolled at MVCTC; matriculation there does not jeopardize their participation in MCOCP. As long as they meet our partner colleges' admission requirements, they remain eligible for the scholarship.** The only change would be how your weekly meetings would be conducted -- whether you'd meet on site or elsewhere.
- **Junior Mentors:** Please mark your calendars for The College Promise Scholar Night, to be held on Thursday, 2/27/25 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Sinclair Community College's Conference Center. Correspondence with more details will be sent to students and their families soon. **All mentees are expected to attend so that they can meet and interact with our college partners.** Families and mentors are invited to attend as well.
- **Senior Mentors:** The 2025-2026 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is open! Students AND their parent/guardian will need their individual FSA IDs in order to complete the FAFSA. If not already done, they can create the FSA ID at this link: [FSA ID Creation](#). They will visit [FAFSA Application](#) to log in and complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA. **All students should have finished and submitted the FAFSA by 12/31/24, so those who haven't done so should complete this step as soon as possible.**
- **Senior Mentors:** By now, senior MCOCP participants should have completed and submitted all of their college admissions applications. From this point forward, they should be checking their emails and college portals on a regular basis for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation.
- **Senior Mentors:** The Dayton Foundation's [ScholarshipCONNECT](#) application opened on 1/8/25. It is a database to over 300 local scholarships through the foundation. Please encourage your mentee to apply and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. **Note that information from the FAFSA will be needed for the application.** Students can apply through the link above.



January Fun Facts and Dates to Remember



Entering a new year with those resolutions top of mind, most folks are looking forward to some respite from the busyness of the holiday season and an opportunity to refocus. January brings many moments of reflection with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, as well as National Mentoring Month, National Book Month, and National Thank You Month. And as always, there are other days worth commemorating:

- National Popcorn Day, 1/19/25
- National Compliment Day, 1/24/25
- National Holocaust Remembrance Day, 1/27/25
- National Thank Your Mentee Day, 1/27/25
- National Puzzle Day, 1/29/25



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](#)

- 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
- RiverScape MetroPark Ice Rink -- 11/29/24 through 2/28/25
- MLK Musical Concert -- 1/19/25, 5 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church
- MLK Memorial March (Meet at 1323 W. Third St., Dayton, OH 45402 near Drew Health Center) -- 1/20/25, 10 a.m.
- Adulting 101, Main Library Branch -- 1/23/25, 4-5 p.m.
- Teen E-Sports, Main Library Branch -- 1/27/25, 4-5 p.m.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Mentoring

- [“How Mentoring Can Change Lives”](#) (Mentor.org Blog)

FAFSA

- [“Forget FAFSA, says one state. We got you”](#) (*The Hechinger Report*)

Student Mental Health

- [“Kids in Crisis: Five ways to improve youth mental health in the Dayton Region”](#) (*Dayton Daily News*)
- [“Ohio lawmakers propose legislation to improve youth mental health: Kids in Crisis”](#) (*Dayton Daily News*)

College Access & Success

- [“Which Ohio counties have the most high schoolers taking college courses”](#) (*Signal Cleveland*)

College Admissions

- [“As 2025’s Demographic Cliff Looms, How Far Will College Enrollment Fall?”](#) (*Forbes*)

College & Career Readiness

- [“Apprenticeships are a trending alternative to college – but there’s a hitch”](#) (*The Hechinger Report*)
- [“Looking for internships? They are in short supply”](#) (*The Hechinger Report*)

College Value & Affordability

- [“Why College Freshman Enrollment Declined and What it Could Mean for Students”](#) (*U.S. News & World Report*)

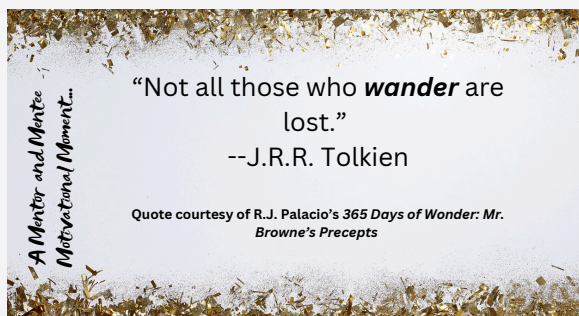
Podcasts & Interviews

- [“The Language of Financial Aid”](#) (*Admissions Beat*)
- [“Equity, Access, and Student Success Post-2024 Election, with Dr. Angel B. Pérez”](#) (*Diverse Issues in Higher Education’s In the Margins*)
- [“How AI and College Admissions Are Evolving Together with Emily Pacheco”](#) (*Application to Admission*)

DID YOU KNOW?**Quick Facts about Youth and Mentors...**

- 74% of mentees with “meaningful mentors” say that person contributed greatly to their later success.
- 60% of those under 40 continue to lean on the advice they received from their mentors.

Source: Mentoring.org’s [Why Mentoring?](#)



- [AI in College Admission](#)
- [Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education \(SOCHE\)](#)