



# MENTORING THIS MONTH

JANUARY 2026  
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1



**H**ello 2026! All things are now made new again as we hit the "reset" button and begin another calendar year.

MCOCP is officially celebrating the fourth volume of *Mentoring This Month*. In student and academic years, this publication is now a senior!

The numeral four has a particular significance and often symbolizes stability, balance, order and completion.

MCOCP staff members know that their work is far from finished, and there are many more miles to go in serving Montgomery County students. As part of MCOCP's mission, we have been pleased to share tips, news and reminders with our mentors and supporters through *Mentoring This Month*. We look forward to many more years doing so!

It's hard to grasp how swiftly time moves. As 2026 commences, the 2025-26 school year is reaching the

halfway point. In four short months, the end of another school year and graduation season will be here. Before then, however, MCOCP will be hosting our spring engagement activity with mentors and mentees. The annual pizza parties will be held again in March and April. More details will be forthcoming in future issues. Stay tuned.

As always, there is good information to get you organized for the upcoming month in "Mentor Reminders." Additionally, there are various topics – financial assistance, college costs, and college versus career – that await you in the "News You Can" use segment. So explore and let's continue this great work together in 2026!



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# JANUARY DISCUSSION TOPICS

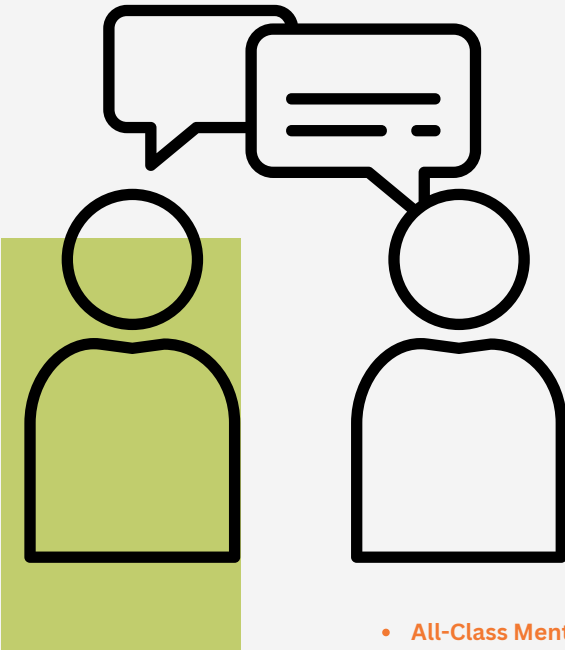
- If you were the dad or mom of the house, what would be your three rules?
- What would your best day be like?
- What is or was your favorite toy?
- What is one of the most important things your parents (or other family members) have taught you? How have you practiced this?

(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:** Mark your calendars for the **upcoming Q3 Mentor Roundtable**, held on Monday, 1/26/26 at 3:30 p.m. Previously, Patrick has sent the meeting link details, but here they are once more for your reference: [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 821 9569 4122; Passcode: 917275). We're looking forward to "seeing" you then!
- **All-Class Mentors:** Since the first semester ended before the holidays or will end in the coming weeks, Q2 grade reports will be issued soon. Once they are received and reviewed on the MCOCP end, they will be emailed to you.
- **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:** It's mentor recruitment time! We will be selecting our 16th Cohort MCOCP Scholars at the end of February 2026. 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 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 district'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:** Save the date for MCOCP's annual College Promise Scholar Night event at Wright State University! It will be held on 2/26/26 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming for mentees, their families and mentors. **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:** By now, all seniors should have completed the FAFSA and college applications. As 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.
- **Senior Mentors:** Recently, all seniors should've received a mailing regarding Bowling Green State University's Thompson Working Families Scholarship Program. **If a College Promise Scholar intends on attending BGSU, he or she must complete this scholarship application. The deadline for submission is 2/19/26.** More details can be found [here](#).
- **Senior Mentors:** The Dayton Foundation's [ScholarshipCONNECT](#) is now open for the 2026-27 academic year. The deadline for application submission is 3/6/26 by 4 p.m. **Note that information from the FAFSA will be needed for the application.**





## January Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

January is known as National Book month, National Family Fit Lifestyle Month and National Mentoring Month. And, of course there is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the main January holiday. Below, find some more creative, unique and fun dates to ring in the first month of 2026.



- Kid Inventors' Day, 1/17/26
- Winnie the Pooh Day, 1/18/26
- National Pie Day, 1/23/26
- National Compliment Day, 1/24/26
- National Puzzle Day, 1/29/26
- Inspire Your Heart with Art Day, 1/31/26



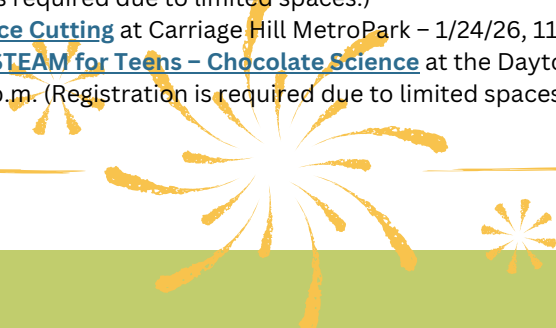
## OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

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](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
- [Dayton Ohio Scavenger Hunt: Dayton's Soaring Heights](http://DaytonOhioScavengerHunt.com) – Ongoing
- [Skate at RiverScape MetroPark](http://SkateatRiverScapeMetroPark.com) – Now through February
- [MLK Celebration Events](http://MLKCelebrationEvents.com) – 1/1/26-1/19/26 (Events include the MLK Musical Concert on 1/18/26, MLK Memorial March on 1/19/26, and the MLK Youth Celebration after the march on 1/19/26.)
- [Young's Jersey Dairy 157<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration](http://YoungsJerseyDairy157thBirthdayCelebration.com) – 1/16/26-1/19/26
- [Teen Craft and Learn](http://TeenCraftandLearn.com) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 1/22/26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Registration is required due to limited spaces.)
- [Ice Cutting](http://IceCutting.com) at Carriage Hill MetroPark – 1/24/26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Weather dependent)
- [STEAM for Teens – Chocolate Science](http://STEAMforTeens.com) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch – 1/29/26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Registration is required due to limited spaces.)



**BREAKING NEWS**

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**



*MCOCP Milestones*

**General & Miscellaneous Education**

- [“How rare are colleges that enroll and graduate high shares of Pell Grant students?”](#) (*Higher Ed Dive*)
- [“What Students Study Matters. How Colleges Guide Them Matters More.”](#) (*Forbes*)

**FAFSA & Financial Assistance**

- [“States Must Step Up as Federal College Aid Crumbles, New Report Warns”](#) (*The EDU Ledger*)

**Student Mental Health**

- [“Schools Tapped Young Adults to Serve as Mental Health Navigators. What Happened Next?”](#) (*EdSurge*)

**College Access & College Success**

- [“Experts Find Foster Youth Fare Better In College Than Once Thought— But Still Need More Support Than They Get”](#) (*The Imprint*)

**College Value & Affordability**

- [“As tuition soars, so has ‘behind-the-scenes’ discounting, ‘The Price You Pay for College’ author says”](#) (*CNBC*)
- [“Getting a bachelor’s degree in Ohio costs more than in other Great Lakes states, study finds”](#) (*Signal Cleveland*)
- [“College Costs Were Flat for Many Years. Now They’re Back on the Rise”](#) (*Money*)

**College & Career Readiness**

- [“Ohio college advisers face new questions as students pick between college and careers”](#) (*The Columbus Dispatch*)

**Podcasts & Interviews**

- [“Lessons from the Search: Parent POV”](#) (*Admissions Beat*)
- [“Admit, Deferred, Denied? What to do Next....”](#) (*Application to Admission*)
- [“Can I Afford It?!”](#) (*Admissions Beat*)

*Thank You*

*Gracias. Merci.  
Danke. Grazie.  
Asante.*

Because of our donors' generosity,  
we raised \$103,343 in our  
2025 annual campaign,  
“Helping Students Thrive.”



**COLLEGE ACCESS CORNER**



- [College Cost Transparency Initiative](#)
- [College Scorecard](#)

