



MENTORING THIS MONTH

MAY 2026
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On long road trips, children – and sometimes adults too – often question incessantly “are we there yet?” As many students are already in “senioritis” mode, there’s no doubt that our MCOCPP graduates have asked this more times than they can count. Well, the time has come, commencement season is here, and they can finally answer that question with a resounding “yes” as that final school bell rings!



May is often bittersweet, ushering in a flurry of emotional extremes that run the gamut – joy, pride, sadness, anxiety, fear, excitement, and more. It also signals growth, forward momentum, transitions, new beginnings, and endless possibilities!



Mentors, you’ve been there every step of the way to experience all of these “feels” with your mentees and their families. Whether your mentee is graduating or you’re returning in your role next year, you have invested in these young people with your time, care, nurturing and stick-to-itiveness spirit! As the end of the 2025-2026 school year approaches, we pause to take a moment to say thank you for all you’ve done, are doing, and will continue to do. Your presence, encouragement, bright light, and consistency matters, and you are making a real difference!

Excerpt from “Don’t Quit”

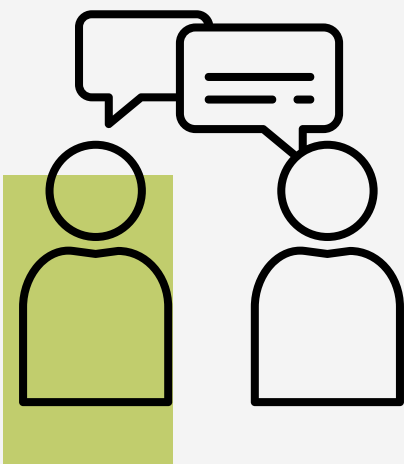
For MCOCPP Scholars & Mentors:

“Success is failure turned inside out – the silver tint of the clouds of doubt, and you never can tell how close you are, it may be near when it seems afar; so stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit – it’s when things seem worst that you mustn’t quit.”
(Author Unknown)

As a reminder, MTM won’t be in your inboxes during June and July but will return when school resumes. So, pay close attention to the current mentor reminders and take a moment to read some of the latest news on student mental health, first-generation students, admissions trends, and more. Turn the pages to see what awaits!



The MCOCPP team wishes you a summer full of fun, new adventures, and respite too! See you in August!



MAY DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What career do you want to pursue? What wouldn't you want to do for a living? Why?
- What are your summer plans?
- What is the most difficult thing about being a teen today? What is the best thing?
- If you were granted three wishes, what would they be?

(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.
- The WPAFB Educational Outreach Office has many [offerings](#) for youth of all ages on its website.
- Wright State University's Raj Sooin 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.



Announcement:

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.

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. (Graphic is courtesy of the MCOCP 2025 Annual Report.)

Our mentors have spent

72,000

hours connecting with their students since the program began, which is life-changing!



Sophomore and Junior Mentors:

- [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.

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:

- Throughout the summer months, MCOCP graduates should be checking their emails and college portals regularly for updates and providing any requested remaining documentation.
- **Seniors should have received a Decision Day Form in the U.S. mail from us. Return the form to us by 5/22/26.**



May Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

May has arrived, bringing with it the anticipation of summer vacations, holidays and more! It is also designated as Asian Pacific Heritage Month, National Military Appreciation Month, and National Physical Fitness & Sports Month. And of course, there's no time like now to start enjoying the start of festival season and other events. Are you looking for other interesting and fun ways to celebrate May? See other suggested activities below.

National Wear Purple for Peace Day, 5/16/26

National Dog Rescue Day, 5/20/26

International Tea Day, 5/21/26

International Hamburger Day, 5/28/26

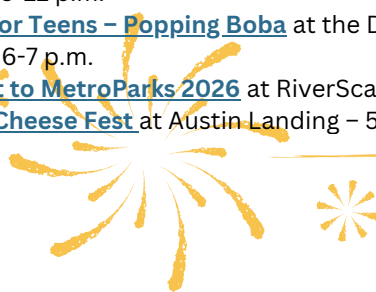
National Smile Day, 5/31/26

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
- [Tai Chi & Qigong at the River](#) at RiverScape MetroPark – 5/19/26, 6-7 p.m.
- [Dayton Burger Fest Food Truck Rally](#) at The Brightside Event and Music Venue – 5/22/26, 5-11 p.m.
- [STEAM for Teens – Popping Boba](#) at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch, 5/28/26, 6-7 p.m.
- [Passport to MetroParks 2026](#) at RiverScape MetroPark – 5/29/26, 6-9 p.m.
- [Dayton Cheese Fest](#) at Austin Landing – 5/30/26, 4-10 p.m.



Juniors Britney Mendez-Medina and Tyson Nguyen were part of the 18-member West Carrollton High School team competing at the "We the People" Statewide Civics Competition at the Ohio Statehouse. Their first time competing, they won third place overall. State Senator Willis Blackshear, Jr. gave each student Commendations. Britney's mentor, River Wilson, stated "Britney prepared for this competition while also working part time, keeping up with all her other classes, and spending many hours outside of school completing her drivers education course. This was a very exciting opportunity for Britney because she has an interest in law."



Valley View High School freshman Makenzie "Kenzie" Collins received Scholar Athlete and Rookie-of-the-Year Awards at the end of the varsity volleyball season. She has also been selected to participate in Honor Band and the Hope Squad. Her mentor, Stephanie Carmack, says "Kenzie balances her academic, social and athletic life with apparent ease! Kenzie has a goal in mind for her future – pediatric oncology nurse – and is very focused on reaching that goal. Not only is Kenzie a role model for students in the classroom, but she is a role model outside the classroom as well."

BREAKING NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

John N. Taylor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

FAFSA & Financial Assistance

- ["1.7 Million More Students Qualify for Maximum Pell Grants Following FAFSA Simplification"](#) (The EDU Ledger)

General & Miscellaneous Education

- ["Dual Enrollment Is a School Choice Option People Don't Talk About — but Should"](#) (The 74)
- ["For many college students, picking a major takes time and revising"](#) (EdSource)

Student Mental Health

- ["More Than Half of College Students Are Lonely — and Social Media Is Making It Worse"](#) (The EDU Ledger)

Career Exploration

- ["OPINION: Want to get young people excited about learning? Give them hands-on programs, mentors and skills that lead to good careers"](#) (The Hechinger Report)

First-Generation College Students

- ["This program aims to help Ohio's foster youth go to college. So why do so few use it?"](#) (The Ohio Newsroom)

Admissions

- ["College admissions offices take on a new role: Coaxing accepted students to show up"](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- ["Getting in is getting easier"](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- ["The Pressure to Chase Prestige in College Admissions"](#) (Harvard Graduate School of Education)

College Value & Affordability

- ["What Ohioans say would make them trust public universities more"](#) (Signal Ohio)
- ["What if the story we're telling about college is wrong?"](#) (Lumina Foundation)

Podcasts & Interviews

- ["Everything Counts!"](#) (Admissions Beat)
- ["Let's Just See What Happens..."](#) (Admissions Beat)
- ["The Things I Wish I'd Known..."](#) (Admissions Beat)



Luis (Michael Sawyer, mentor)



Roberto (Patrick Gill, mentor)

Luis Valencia, Jr. and Roberto Coronel Ramirez, Centerville High School and Carroll High School seniors, respectively, are the first recipients of the John N. Taylor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. This one-time \$1,000 award will go toward the cost of their higher education next year.

John N. and Connie Taylor created MCOCP out of a desire to help young people have an opportunity to go to college and be successful.

Luis will attend University of Notre Dame and study Engineering, while Roberto will major in Pre-Law and Spanish at Ohio Wesleyan University.

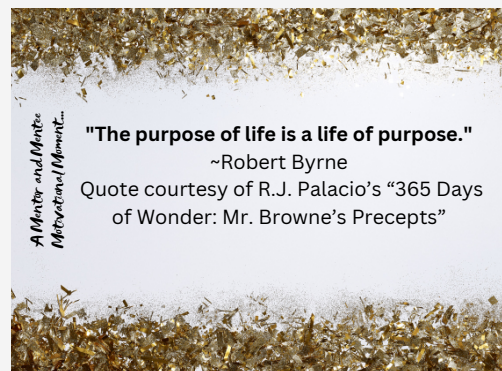
HAPPY GRADUATION



A Tribute to the MCOCP Class of 2026

"You are where you are today because you stand on somebody's shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It's the quid pro quo of life. We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give."
(Vernon Jordan, American business executive and civil rights attorney)

Cheers to the graduates! The best is yet to come, and we're excited to see how your future unfolds. We are convinced that it is bright!



COLLEGE ACCESS CORNER

- **SOCHE**
- **The Scholarship Collective**

MCOCP Mission: "Montgomery County Ohio College Promise identifies, selects, and supports Montgomery County, economically disadvantaged students, who have shown promise, so their dream of attending and graduating from college becomes a reality."