

December QUEST Newsletter

ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

CALCU SOLVE

Permission slips are available in the QUEST Student Center (room 168)!

Calculus Competition

December 13th at 9:30am

CalcuSolve is a virtual math competition for students in grades 9-12 that tests students' problem-solving skills as individuals, and as part of a team of up to 4 students. There are a total of 9 math problems, 7 individual and 2 team. Points are earned based on correct answers given during a set amount of time.

IMPORTANT DATES:

12/1 – Time to start thinking about and applying to summer programs!

12/1: Congressional Seminar Essay Contest submission deadline

12/1: Registration open for US National Chemistry Olympiad

12/2: No School

12/2: USA Mathematical Talent Search Round 2 due

12/4: Math Madness during QRT

12/9: SWE Leadership Academy: Create Your Dream Job session

12/10: Career speakers during QRT

12/11: Math Madness during QRT

12/12: American Scholastic Mathematics Association Contest #2 – QRT

12/13: Calculus Competition

12/13: Teen Night at the Warhol (free admission)

12/17: Medical Career Day at St. Margaret UPMC

12/23-1/1: Winter Break

1/1: MIT Think Scholars application deadline

1/7: Keystone exams begin



ACS USNCO
U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad



Registration is now open!

United States National Chemistry Olympiad

The USNCO program is a multi-tiered chemistry competition for high school students. Students interested in competing must register with ACS no later than **January 17, 2025**. Registration does not guarantee participation in the program. To learn more about the four tiers of the Olympiad, to register, or to contact your local coordinator, please visit:

<https://www.acs.org/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html>

Are you a **high school sophomore or junior** dreaming of spending the summer abroad on a **full scholarship**?

APPLY TO THE GLOBAL TRAVEL SCHOLARS PROGRAM!

From the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh - The Global Travel Scholars program provides **full scholarships** to selected current sophomores and juniors (age 16+ as of February 1, 2025) with financial need to participate in a summer program abroad through World Learning's The Experiment in International Living.

For more information, visit:
www.worldpittsburgh.org/global-travel



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

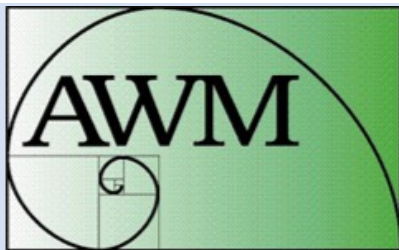
HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Free Admission for Students Throughout December!

This holiday season, kids aged 17 and under can enjoy **FREE** admission to the History Center, Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, and Fort Pitt Museum! This is the perfect opportunity for families to explore Pittsburgh's rich history, dive into fascinating exhibits, and learn about the region's sports heritage. Whether you're interested in the stories of Pittsburgh's past or the iconic moments in sports history, there's something for everyone to discover.





Association for Women in Mathematics

Women in Mathematics Essay Contest

To increase awareness of women's ongoing contributions to the mathematical sciences, the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and Math for America co-sponsor an essay contest for biographies of contemporary women mathematicians and statisticians in academic, industrial, and government careers. The essays will be based primarily on an interview with a woman currently working in or retired from a mathematical sciences career.

Deadline: February 1st.

There is one First Place Winner in each category (Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12, and Undergraduate) and a Grand Prize Winner chosen from among those three First Place Winners. There are also typically 0-3 Honorable Mentions in each category.

The winners (including Honorable Mentions) receive a monetary prize, a membership in the Association for Women in Mathematics, and a certificate, and their names and affiliations are published in the AWM Newsletter. In addition, all of the essays are published online, and the Grand Prize winner's essay is published in the AWM Newsletter.

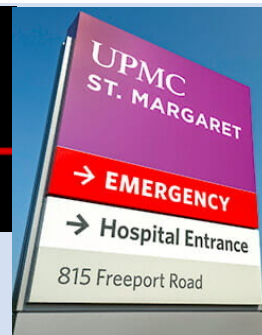
<https://awm-math.org/awards/student-essay-contest/xv>



Are You Interested in a Medical Career Pathway?

Join us for a visit to UPMC St. Margaret on December 17th from 10am – 1pm. Participants will engage in a presentation and Q&A session with hospital leaders and tour the following departments to learn more about careers in these fields: **RADIOLOGY, PHARMACY, STERILE PROCESSING, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT** and **OPERATING ROOM**.

Lunch and transportation will be provided. Participants Will also learn more about opportunities for volunteerism, Job shadowing, and paid positions at UPMC St. Margaret. Email Lisa_Gibson@fcsd.edu for a permission slip!



North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition

You will miss 2nd and 3rd period classes to complete the test.

This Olympiad is a contest in which high-school students solve linguistic puzzles. In solving the problems, students learn about the diversity and consistency of language, while exercising logic skills. No prior knowledge of linguistics or second languages is necessary. Professionals in linguistics, computational linguistics and language technologies use dozens of languages to create engaging problems that represent cutting edge issues in their fields. The competition has attracted top students to study and work in those same fields. It is truly an opportunity for young people to experience a taste of natural-language processing in the 21st century.

Register on the NACLO website:

https://naclo.org/registration_page.php. Choose your site to be "Fox Chapel Area High School" because we are hosting the initial round of testing.

NACLO - The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad will be held at FCAHS on January 23 in the library classroom This exam is 3 hours long and winners will qualify to compete in the International Linguistics Olympiad.

Carnegie Museums FREE Teen Memberships!



Fall into adventure during Carnegie Museums' upcoming Teen Night events! From youth artmaking to teen science challenges, the four Carnegie Museums provide so many creative ways for teens to connect with each other and their world—and, most importantly, to find their own voice. Teen Membership is a free pass to exploration and discovery available to all teens 13–18 years old who are residents of Pennsylvania. Not yet a member? Teens ages 13–18 can sign up for a **free** Teen Membership at carnegiemuseums.org

Upcoming event at the Warhol Museum...

Winter Teen Night & Fashion Show
Friday, December 13, 5–8:30 p.m.

Free for all teen members!

An evening of fun and fashion at The Andy Warhol Museum's annual Winter Teen Night. This free event includes music, food, and artmaking activities organized by The Warhol's Youth Arts Council. Check out the galleries, stop by the teen maker market, and silkscreen in The Factory. This year's Winter Teen Night will run alongside The Warhol's Youth Fashion Show.

Models will walk the runway in repurposed, reimagined, and recycled garments and accessories created during The Warhol's Youth Open Studio program. This is a great opportunity for self-expression and a chance to support young Pittsburgh area artists! Register today at <https://www.warhol.org/events/winter-teen-night-4/>

CURING WITH CARE

Student Outreach Opportunity with UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Researchers Wednesday, March 5th



UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is hosting FCAHS students onsite for their Curing with CARE program. During this visit, various programs

and researchers speak with the students on opportunities for cancer outreach as well as the latest advancements in cancer research. The event will be focused on the science of cancer research. Primary Investigators (PI's) will attend to speak about the latest trends in research and some cool science. Representatives from the Hillman Academy will also present to the students. Lunch will be provided for everyone, which will also give the students the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the PI's. They enjoy interacting and answering questions. Following lunch, they will provide a tour for smaller groups to see the building and some of the active working wet labs within the building.

If you are attending and have specific allergies to food, please let me know at Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu. I can work with catering to try to accommodate.

Permission slips are available in the QUEST office (room 168. Wait until the 2nd semester begin to get your signed.

*The Assembly,
Shadyside
is a historical,
state-of-the art building
for research.*



Open Heart Surgery Observation January 16, 2025

This opportunity is limited to 8 students.

Preference is given to juniors and seniors who plan to major in a field of medicine and who have not previously attended an open heart surgery observation. We will depart for Allegheny General Hospital at 7:10am, so you must get a ride to school that morning if your bus typically arrives later than that time. Email Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu if you are interested in attending!



Are you a member of TSA? Robotics Club?
Interested in mechanical engineering, perhaps?
Then this competition would be perfect for you!



Shaler Area High School



9th Annual STEAM Competition

Friday, March 7, 2025

8:30 AM – 1:30 PM @ Shaler Area High School

Competition Includes:

- Building a mobile underhand catapult.
- Four additional STEAM group challenges on the day of the competition.
- Two teams of five students per team will compete. Email Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu if you would like to be considered for the team. Preference is given to students who are in TSA or on the Robotics team because extra time and space is needed to build your team's underhand catapult. It is recommended that participants be "fluent" in all aspects of STEAM for the group challenges. It is also recommended that participants have completed at least Algebra II.
- Grab-and-go breakfast, lunch and t-shirts will be provided along with prizes and awards for the winners!

January 2025 Keystone and Final Exam Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 No School	2 Regular School Day	3 Regular School Day /
6 Career QRT (Events TBA) Keystone Window Opens	7 5 min QRT In-Class Keystone Periods 1,2 Building Schedule: 1, 3, 2, 4	8 5 min QRT In-class Keystone Periods 3, 4 Building Schedule: 4, 2, 3, 1	9 5 min QRT In-Class Keystone Periods 1,2 Building Schedule: 1, 3, 2, 4	10 5 min QRT In-class Keystone Periods 3, 4 Building Schedule: 4, 2, 3, 1
13 Super QRT (Wellness Day)/Elective Finals Keystone Retests and Make-Up	14 English/Social Studies/Elective Finals Regular Building Schedule Keystone Retests and Make-Up	15 Science/Math /Elective Finals Regular Building Schedule Keystone Retests and Make-Up	16 Make-Up Finals / Elective Finals Regular Building Schedule Keystone Retests and Make-Up	17 Full Clerical
20 Professional Development	21 1st day of 2nd semester	22	23	24



American Legion Essay Contest: "Is the American Dream Still Relevant Today?" Submit to Mrs. Gibson by Jan. 4th

Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 is eligible to participate in the *High School Essay Contest*. Through the annual Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay scholarship contest, students are provided an opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities in English by using originality, accuracy and research as evidence, while learning that the responsibilities and duties of good citizenship can be both rewarding and fun.

Prizes to Be Awarded

The Department of Pennsylvania State Essay First Place Winner will be awarded a \$3,500 scholarship, a plaque, and a trip to this year's Pennsylvania American Legion Convention in July to read the winning essay to the assembled delegates. The Second Place Winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and a plaque. The Third Place Winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a plaque. Any applications for this program can be found at <https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/essay-program/>

****Only one entry per high school may be submitted!** Contact Mrs. Gibson for help submitting.

Carnegie Mellon University

Pre-College Programs

**Applications for
Sumer 2025 Now
Open!**

Carnegie Mellon's Pre-College Programs mirrors the undergraduate experience, giving rising juniors and seniors the opportunity to explore their interests and passions while receiving instruction from acclaimed Carnegie Mellon faculty and staff.

We provide a holistic and robust student experience that includes academic and personal development both inside and outside of the classroom in order to prepare students for the future. Live and learn in a college setting that will challenge you to discover your best self.

Programs offered:

AI SCHOLARS ▶	ART ▶	ARCHITECTURE ▶	COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY ▶
CS SCHOLARS ▶	DESIGN ▶	DRAMA ▶	MUSIC ▶
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GAME ACADEMY ▶	SUMMER ACADEMY FOR MATH AND SCIENCE ▶	SUMMER SESSION ▶	WRITING & CULTURE ▶

Application deadlines:

Early Decision: February 1, 2025

Regular Decision: March 1, 2025

For more information and to apply, visit:
<https://www.cmu.edu/pre-college/>

THINK

MIT-THINK SCHOLARS PROGRAM
BRINGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' IDEAS TO LIFE

MIT's THINK is a science, research, and innovation program for high school students. Rather than requiring students to have completed a research project before applying, THINK caters to students who have done extensive research on the background of a potential research project and are looking for additional guidance in the early stages of their project. The program is organized by a group of

undergraduates at MIT. Selected finalists have weekly mentorship meetings with THINK team members for technical guidance, helpful resources, and updates on the projects progress and are given up to \$1,000 in funding for their project. Additionally, if permitting, finalists are invited to a four-day all-expenses paid trip to MIT's campus, where they tour labs, present their research to MIT students and faculty, and hang out with members of the THINK team. Applications are due no later than January 1, 2025. Visit think.mit.edu for more details and to apply.



SWENext High School Leadership Academy (SHLA)

The Society of Women in Engineering (SWE)Next High School Leadership Academy (SHLA) is an engaging virtual program that builds self-confidence and resilience among pre-college students interested in engineering and technology degrees and provides multiple opportunities to network with peers, mentors, role models, and industry professionals. The program includes five essential core content tracks: Leadership development; College preparation; STEM pathway opportunities; Self-development; Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

To join, visit: <https://swe.org/outreach/high-school-leadership-academy-shla/>
If you are not yet a member of FC's SWENext club, you can still join by emailing Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu

Upcoming Sessions:

- December 9th: Create Your Dream Job
- January 20th: Developing a Mindset for Inclusive Leadership
- February 10th: Meet-up with Professional Engineers



National High School Poetry Contest

Gannon University English Department Now Accepting Submissions! Awardees will be invited to virtually join a workshop by our distinguished featured poet and will be recognized at the 47th Annual Gannon Writing Awards ceremony. He or she will receive a monetary award of \$50, a book by our featured poet, and publication in the Awards Night program and in the award-winning literary magazine, Totem. Winners will be notified by email in March. Awards will be presented at the annual Gannon Writing Awards program.

Deadline: February 1, 2025

<https://www.gannon.edu/academic-offerings/humanities-education-and-social-sciences/undergraduate/english/poetry-contest/>



"Storytellers of Tomorrow" High School Creative Writing Contest – January 15th, 2025 Deadline

<https://www.ringling.edu/writingcontest>

The Ringling College of Art and Design Creative Writing Program was created to support, empower, and honor young writers. It's an exciting time to be a writer thanks to the increasing number of narrative possibilities that new technologies and media offer. Submit an unpublished, original English-language story of up to 2,000 words in length for the "Storytellers of Tomorrow" Contest. The criteria for earning prizes in this contest is simply overall quality, meaning that well-edited, engaging, and evocative stories have the best chance of winning over the judges.

Here are some popular summer programs to consider....

PA Governor's School for Global & International Studies

<https://www.govschool.pitt.edu/>

Helps tomorrow's business, political, and intellectual leaders think critically about our world and the dynamic issues, connections, and perspectives within it. The Governor's School accepts rising juniors and seniors nationally and internationally who are highly motivated, thoughtful, hard-working, and committed to helping others for a four-week residential program at the University of Pittsburgh. The 2025 program dates: June 21st to July 19th, 2025.

PA Governor's School for the Sciences (PGSS)

<https://sciences.pa-gov-schools.org/>

Empowers highly talented Pennsylvania high-school students (must be a rising senior) to pursue lifelong STEM endeavors inspired by a rigorous academic summer program that nurtures scientific thinking, scholarly collaboration, and interpersonal connections. This program is hosted at Carnegie Mellon University and only accepts 72 students. This program is free to accepted students. The 2025 program dates: June 22 - July 26, 2025. Application deadline: January 25, 2025

University of Pittsburgh

Health Careers Scholars Academy

<https://www.hcsa.pitt.edu/>

The dynamic world of health care plus the expertise of University of Pittsburgh academics and facilities. This educational mixture shapes a unique, academically rigorous, hands-on campus experience for students attending the Health Career Scholars Academy (UPHCSA) each summer. The Academy is often a springboard for future studies in medicine. Eligibility: current high school sophomore or junior; at least 15 years of age by application deadline. The 2025 program dates: June 29 - July 26, 2025. Application deadline: February 25, 2025

Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive

<https://global.lehigh.edu/iacocca-institute/IGEI>

The Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive is a four-week, immersive, experiential learning opportunity for high school students (ages 15-17) to develop skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, the basics of business, intercultural understanding and leadership. At the Iacocca Institute, we prepare participants to take on complex, multi-system, global challenges in creative and collaborative ways. The 2025 program dates: July 6 – August 1, 2025. Application deadline: February 14, 2025

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Academy

<https://hillmanacademy.upmc.com/>

Through the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Academy's eight-week, hands-on summer program, high school students, primarily rising juniors and seniors, engage in cutting edge cancer research by working in laboratories directed by dedicated faculty at 6-8 sites across the University of Pittsburgh campus. Over the course of its history, The Hillman Academy has become an award-winning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program that prepares college-bound teenagers for successful careers in science and medicine. Applications will be available in December!

The Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences

<https://agsci.psu.edu/school-for-excellence>

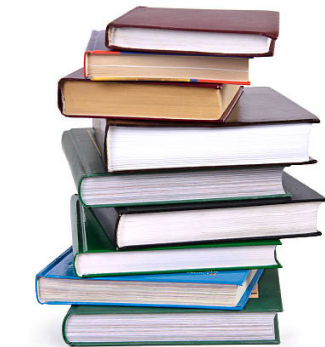
PSEAS has deep roots, blooming out of what was formerly known as the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences. The College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State first hosted this enrichment program in 1986. Over the years, this special program has impacted over 1800 participants in exploring college life and the expansive and diverse fields of agricultural science and natural resources. This is a two-week residential program held primarily at University Park campus for academically talented and gifted high school rising seniors from throughout Pennsylvania. The 2025 program dates: Session One: June 15-28, 2025. Session Two: July 6-19, 2025. Application deadline: February 21, 2025

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
LEARNING ACADEMY
presents

SAT[®]

**BOOT
CAMP**

\$100
Cash or check
payable to FCASD



- Test taking and time management tips
- Intensive grammar & usage skills review
- Intensive math skills review
- Critical reading skills and strategies
- Practice drills with actual test questions
- Experienced and highly-trained instructors

Sunday, March 2, 2025
Noon – 5 p.m.
Fox Chapel Area High School LGI

This program is most suitable for students who have successfully completed Algebra 2.

Please bring with you a graphing calculator and laptop.

Contact Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu if you do not have access to these items.

****PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED****

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Email: _____ School District: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Fox Chapel Area School District (FCASD).

No refunds issued after March 1, 2025

*Submit check and completed registration form (front and back)
either in person (Fox Chapel Area High School room 168) or via mail to:*

Lisa Gibson, Director
Western PA Learning Academy
Fox Chapel Area High School
611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LEARNING ACADEMY

The well-being of any child is a parental responsibility. In an emergency, every effort will be made to contact a parent/guardian. Please list two persons who can arrange transportation and care for your child when you are not available.

Relative or Friend: _____ Phone: _____

Relative or Friend: _____ Phone: _____



SAT Boot Camp Program Permission Form

Student Name: _____

I, _____ give permission for my child to attend the assigned date of the Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy's SAT Boot Camp. In the event of an emergency, if treatment is required and parents/guardians cannot be notified immediately, I give consent for emergency treatment and transport to the nearest emergency room.

Does your child have any health concerns that would hinder participation in this program? _____ No _____ Yes. If yes, please complete the following:

Please indicate if your child has any of the following health concerns:

_____ Asthma _____ Inhaler needed
_____ Life-threatening allergy to bee sting _____ EpiPen
_____ Life-threatening allergy to food _____ Benadryl needed
_____ Seizure disorder _____ Diabetes
_____ Allergy to _____ Other _____

Emergency Treatment (if needed): _____

Health Insurance: _____

Family Physician: _____ Phone: _____

My signature confirms that my child has permission to participate. Permission is also granted to share this information with appropriate academy personnel.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____