



JANUARY

QUEST NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year from the QUEST Department!
We hope you will start 2025 with a **RESOLUTION to pursue a new and exciting enrichment opportunity!**



UPMC HILLMAN CANCER CENTER ACADEMY



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 various sites across the University of Pittsburgh campus. Scholars in The Hillman Academy explore complex questions within a particular area of cancer research. The majority of their time is spent working in the lab with their assigned mentors. The remaining time is spent receiving didactic instruction; touring facilities dedicated to clinical cancer care and research; participating in journal clubs; and attending cameo presentations by accomplished professionals in the field. At the end of the program, each scholar delivers a ten-minute oral presentation and participates in a poster symposium that reflects their findings in the lab.

Visit <https://hillmanacademy.upmc.com/> for more information and to apply!

Applications are now open!

(must be over 15 to apply)

The UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Academy strives to provide cutting edge research and career preparatory experiences to a diverse group of highly motivated high school students who are pursuing higher education and careers in STEM fields, especially research and medicine. Through the



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.

IMPORTANT DATES:

1/1: Registration open for summer FCAO Health, College & Career Essentials, and SAT Prep

1/1: Register for the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad!

1/1: MIT Think Scholars application deadline

1/6: Keystone testing begins

1/7: Scholastic ART awards submission deadline

1/13: Wellness day

1/15: Storytellers of Tomorrow contest submission deadline

1/16: Open heart surgery observation

1/16: End of first semester!

1/17: No school

1/17: Carlow's Atkin's Center for Ethics submission deadline

1/17: JFK Profiles in Courage submission deadline

1/17: Last day to register for the US National Chemistry Olympiad

1/20: No school

1/23: North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad

1/23: National Security Briefing

1/24: Report cards released

International Academic
Competitions
UNITED STATES DIVISION

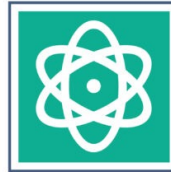
FCAHS QUEST is excited to offer
Round 1 of the following
International Academic
Competitions:

FEBRUARY 27TH:



United States
History Bee

MARCH 6TH:



National
Science Bee



MARCH 14TH:

NATIONAL
POLITICAL
SCIENCE BEE

MARCH 20TH:



National
Geography Bee

Competition Time: 7:25am to the end of QRT

Location: Library Classroom

Pre-Registration Required!

First-Round Registration and Competition:

- Prior registration is required. Interested students should email Lesley_Cowles@fcasd.edu to begin the process (indicate which competition(s) you would like to participate in. Students will create an International Academic Competition account.
- Assessment administered during QRT in the Library Classroom. Arrive no later than 7:25am.
- Online assessment, bring your own charged computer.
- Assessment comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions to be answered within 20-minutes.

Divisions:

- Varsity (11 & 12-grades) or JV (9 & 10 grades) divisions
 - **Exception:** Geography National Qualifying Exam, Varsity (born before July 1, 2009) & JV (born after July 1, 2009)

Competition Advancement:

- Score a 75 or higher on an NQE or finish in the top half of students who have taken the exam.
- **Students who advance to the second-round competition (and beyond) must accept financial responsibility for all competition costs, registration fees, associated travel costs, and required adult chaperone to next-level competition site.**
- *FCAHS is only offering first-round competition registration fees and support.*

FCAHS Contact:

- If you have any questions, contact Dr. Cowles: Lesley_Cowles@fcasd.edu



L.A.U.N.C.H.



The Pittsburgh Technology Council is currently accepting applications for their summer L.A.U.N.C.H. cohort. This opportunity is open to all young women in 10th and 11th grade that are interested in STEM. L.A.U.N.C.H. (Learn, Aspire, Understand, Navigate, Connect, and Highlight) is a **FREE** dynamic program designed to empower participants to stay on the course along their STEM pathway. This is done through meaningful engagement with women professionals in STEM as mentors and advisors, guest speakers on personal brand and entrepreneurship, STEM based industry tours, building of peer and professional networks, and opportunities to explore their potential in STEM career fields. All students get an hourly pay of \$10 each day that they attend throughout the entirety of the 4-week summer cohort. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.pghtech.org/K12_STEM/k12-stem



<https://www.ashg.org/dna-day/>

This contest is open to students in grades 9-12 worldwide and asks students to examine, question, and reflect on important concepts in genetics. Essays are expected to be well-reasoned arguments that indicate a deep understanding of scientific concepts related to the essay question. They are evaluated by ASHG members through three rounds of scoring.

Artificial intelligence (AI)—advanced computer systems that can quickly analyze large amounts of data—is being used in many areas of healthcare, from diagnosing diseases to recommending treatments. Now, experts are also using AI to help interpret genetic testing results, which examine your DNA to understand your risk for certain diseases or guide treatments. If you had to undergo genetic testing, would you want AI to be used to help make sense of your results?

Important Dates

- January 6, 2025: Submission site opens
- March 5, 2025: Submission site closes
- April 25, 2025: DNA Day! Winners announced

Prizes:

1st Place : \$1,000 for student, \$1,000 genetics materials grant
2nd Place : \$600 for student, \$600 genetics materials grant
3rd Place : \$400 for student, \$400 genetics materials grant
Honorable Mentions: 10 student prizes of \$100 each
Questions? Email dnaday@ashg.org



2025 EngineerGirl Writing Contest

<https://www.engineergirl.org/128750/EngineerGirl-Writing-Contest>

The 2025 EngineerGirl Writing Contest asks students to write a piece describing a common object you would make "smart". Tell us what it would do, how it would help people, and what could go wrong.

First-place winners will be awarded **\$1,000**.

Second-place entries will be awarded **\$750**.

Third-place entries will be awarded **\$500**.

Winning entries, along with honorable mention entries, will be published on the EngineerGirl website.

Deadline: February 1, 2024!



<https://www.carlow.edu/mission-service/mercy-justice/atkins-center-for-ethics/essay-contest/>

Essay topic: "How Much Is Too Much?" The Ethical Implications and Considerations of Prescription Drug Pricing

Deadline: January 17th!

The essay contest is open to all students enrolled in grades 11 or 12. You can choose to write an essay or do poetry/spoken word.

- Essay must be 800-1200 words in length, not including citations & bibliography
- Essay must be the independent work of the student
- Essay must be submitted as a PDF or Microsoft Word document
- Poetry/spoken word must be between 150-200 words in length.
- Student must submit a video of themselves reading/performing their entry.
- Student must respond to the topic questions in an articulate, clear & organized manner

Prizes:

- 1st place: \$1,500 cash
- 2nd place: \$1,000 cash
- 3rd place: \$750 cash

The World of 8 Billion Challenge

Create a one minute video that addresses one of this year's global topics, suggests a sustainable solution, and connects how human population growth impacts that topic.

Submission deadline: March 5, 2025



Through the *World of 8 Billion* student video contest, middle and high schoolers are given the platform to think critically about global challenges related to population and share what they think should be done to fix it. Entries are being accepted now through March 5, 2025.

<https://www.worldof8billion.org/video-contest/>

First place winner: \$1,200

Second Place Winner: \$600

Two Honorable Mention Winners: \$300



Johns Hopkins is offering three summer courses for high school students:

- Explore Engineering Innovation (in-person or online)
- Biomedical Engineering Innovation (online)
- Sustainable Energy Innovation (in-person)

Visit <https://ei.jhu.edu/> for details, application and pricing.

2025 Physics Bowl

We will be a host site!

The PhysicsBowl Contest is an international high school competition. School teams compete regionally with other school teams. Students will take a 40-question, 45-minute timed, multiple-choice test. The 2025 exam will be given between **March 19 and April 4, 2025**. Exam questions are based on topics and concepts covered in a typical high school physics course.

Students who would like to compete should email Lesley_Cowles@fcasd.edu.

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.

A colorful poster for the 'BE THE CHANGE 2025 TEEN ADVOCACY SERIES'. It features a central title in large, multi-colored letters. Below the title, there are several circular and rectangular callouts with questions and information. The questions include 'Do you want to make a change in your community?', 'Do you care about youth mental health?', and 'Join us to learn advocacy skills and meet other teens across PA!'. The dates 'February 4, 2025 - March 25, 2025*' and 'Every Tuesday 4:00 - 5:30 PM' are prominently displayed. It also mentions 'Virtual Meetings on Zoom' and 'THE FINALE WILL BE AN IN-PERSON ADVOCACY DAY AT THE PA STATE CAPITOL IN HARRISBURG ON MARCH 25, 2025'. A QR code is present with the text 'APPLY NOW' and 'Applications Due January 12th, 2025'. The logo for 'Youth Advocacy' is in the bottom right corner.

BNY Early College Program

This program includes:

- **Free Tuition/Books/Course Materials**
- **Academic Support Services**
- **Student Stipends**
 - Non-credit course completion
 - \$100.00 per course
 - Credit course completion
 - \$200.00 per "A" grade
 - \$150.00 per "B" grade
 - \$100.00 per "C" grade



The BNY Early College program is gearing up for spring 2025 registration. This great dual enrollment program with Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) gives students the opportunity to get paid and earn up to 30 college credits for FREE! Tuition, books and student services are all free for students that participate in this program. Students that enter the program in 9th or 10th grade will start off with non-credit courses and then once students get to 11th and 12th grade they are able to take credit courses that count towards three professional certificate tracks: Business, Computer Information Technology and Accounting.

The non-credit courses generally meet via Zoom 5 weeks during a semester and are listed below for Spring 2025. The non-credit courses are called Early College Foundations and Pathway Foundations. Upon successful completion of each non-credit course, the student will receive a \$100 stipend to use how they wish.

Early College Foundations II (9th graders)

February 10th - March 14th, Online/Asynchronous
 February 11th - March 11th, Remote - Tuesdays 5:00 - 6:00 pm
 March 17th - April 18th, Online/Asynchronous
 March 19th - April 16th, Remote - Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Pathway Foundations II (10th graders)

February 10th - March 14th, Online/Asynchronous
 February 12th - March 12th, Remote - Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm
 March 17th - April 18th, Online/Asynchronous
 March 18th - April 15th, Remote - Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm

The courses are also available in fully virtual format. Students can enter the program in any grade (9-12).

All of the credit courses listed on the map are free to take at CCAC except for Math 090 and English 101. The course map outlines the courses required to get a Business, Accounting or Computer Information Technology certificate. Students that successfully complete their credit course will earn a stipend based on their grade (A = \$200.00, B = \$150.00, C = \$100.00). Please note that spring 2025 16 week classes begin on January 13th, 2025 and 14 week classes begin on January 27th, 2025, with that being said, new students can start the enrollment process for spring 2025 today!

BNY Early College Program representatives will reach out with the remaining steps and timing to enroll in the program. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the program further, please don't hesitate to reach out to EarlyCollegeProgram@ccac.edu. To learn more about the BNY Early College program please visit this link: <https://ccac.edu/admissions/early-college-program.php>.

Business Supervision & Leadership Certificate		
Required Courses:		BUS Electives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BUS 101 – Introduction to Business• BUS 103 – Principles of Management• CIT 115 – Information Technology Fundamentals• BUS 200 – Principles of Supervision• BUS Elective• BUS Elective		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BUS 104 - Principles of Marketing• BUS 110 – Personal Finance• BUS 112 - Introduction to Entrepreneurship• BUS 117 – Public Relations• BUS 122 – Business Statistics• BUS 130 - Business Communications• Pre-Requisite – ENG 101• BUS 143 – Internet Marketing• BUS 201 - Human Resource Management• BUS 210 – Principles of Retailing• BUS 211 – Production Management• BUS 245 – International Business
11 TH Grade		
Fall	Spring	Summer
BUS 101 – Intro to Business	BUS 103 – Prin. of Management	CIT 115 – Info Tech Fund
12 th Grade		
BUS 200 – Prin. of Supervision	Business Elective	Business Elective

Accounting Certificate			
Required Courses:		Accounting Electives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC 100 – Introduction Accounting • ACC 104 – Financial Accounting • Pre-Requisite – ACC 100 • ACC 203 – Managerial Accounting • Pre-Requisite – ACC 104 • ACC 120 – Computer Applications in Accounting • Pre-Requisite – CIT 100 and ACC 104 • BUS 101 – Introduction to Business • CIT 115 – Information Technology Fundamentals • Accounting Elective • CIT 140 – Office Productivity Applications • Pre-Requisite – MAT 090 • Accounting Elective • Business 103 – Principles of Management 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC 201 Intermediate Accounting I • Pre-Requisite – ACC 203 • ACC 204 – Cost Accounting • Pre-Requisite – ACC 203 • ACC 210 – Payroll and Tax Accounting • ACC 211 – Principles of Tax I • Pre-Requisite – ACC 104 • ACC 225 – Auditing • Pre-Requisite – ACC 202 • ACC 230 – Advanced Accounting • Pre-Requisite – ACC 202 	
Fall		Spring	Summer
11 TH Grade			
ACC 100 – Intro to Accounting		ACC 104 Financial Accounting	ACC 203 – Managerial Accounting
12 TH Grade			
Fall		Spring	Summer
ACC 120 – Computer Applications in Accounting		BUS 101 – Intro to Business	CIT 115 – Info Tech Fund
Additional Courses for Accounting Certificate			
Accounting Elective	CIT 140 – Office Productivity Applications	Accounting Elective	BUS 103 – Principles of Management

Course Offerings – Summer 2025

Fox Chapel Area Online (FCAO)

Open to students currently enrolled in grades 9, 10, and 11.

Online courses run for 5 weeks from

Monday, June 16 through Friday, July 18

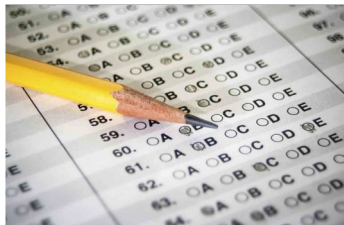
Application deadline: May 23, 2025

FCAO College and Career Essentials



For students entering grades 11 or 12, **College and Career Essentials** focuses on self-investigation, research methods, analytical skills, and post-secondary preparedness. Students will learn and practice professional verbal and written communications, interviewing techniques and follow-up correspondence, strategies for successful post-secondary job or college applications, creation of an effective personal résumé, and college and career readiness. The culminating experience is a one-on-one professional interview that will be conducted in the fall. All activities are completed online. Assignments are due weekly, but students may work ahead, if desired. .5 credits

FCAO SAT Prep



For students entering grades 11 or 12, **SAT Prep** will utilize the full power of the Khan Academy individualized study plan based on the student's past standardized test results and current practice. Students will dedicate at least four hours per week, working on SAT problems and questions developed in conjunction with College Board. Additionally, students will learn about the SAT test, including test-taking strategies, through weekly reading assignments. Students will complete one full-length practice SAT test as part of this class. .5 credits

FCAO Discovery Health



For students entering 10th grade, **Discovery Health** allows students to apply wellness concepts to the study of the human body. Utilizing basic facts about the body systems, students will discover how daily decisions can impact the operation of the human body. This is a required course for graduation from FCAHS. It meets the PA State Standards for Health, Safety, and Physical Education. All activities are completed online. Assignments are due weekly, but students may work ahead, if desired. .5 credits

**** These are compressed courses. Students are completing an entire course in five weeks. ****

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED AND COURSES FILL QUICKLY. STUDENTS ARE NOT ENROLLED UNTIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT ARE SUBMITTED.

Please complete and submit the summer school registration form on the reverse side of this page.

Slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. NO REFUNDS after June 6, 2025.

Questions? Contact Lisa Gibson at lisa_gibson@fcasd.edu or call 412 967-2479.

Fox Chapel Area Online
Summer High School Course Registration
Courses run from June 16 – July 18
Open to students currently enrolled in grades 9, 10, and 11
Application Deadline: May 23, 2025

I would like to register for the following summer course(s):

- ☐ FCAO College and Career Essentials (grades 11 & 12), \$200.00
 - ☐ FCAO SAT Prep (grades 11 & 12), \$200.00
 - ☐ FCAO Health (grade 10), \$200.00
-

Student Name: _____

Current Grade Level (2024 school year): 9 10 11

Mailing Address: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Phone : _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED!
STUDENTS ARE NOT ENROLLED
UNTIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT ARE SUBMITTED.

NO REFUNDS after June 6, 2025.

Please make check payable (separate check per course) to:

Fox Chapel Area School District (FCASD)

Submit check and form either in-person (high school room 168) or via mail to:

Lisa Gibson
FCAHS Summer School Registration
611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

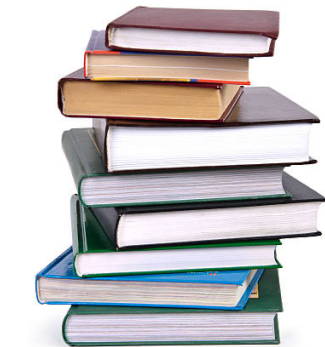
Contact Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu (412-967-2479) with any questions.

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 #: _____