



TALENT SEARCH

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

September 2023
Newsletter

Important Dates

Tuesday, September 6
SDP First Day of School

Friday, September 15
SDP High School Selection Opens

Monday, September 25
SDP Closed for Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 26
Talent Search Virtual Orientation



Greetings, Scholars and Families -

Welcome back to our returning students, and welcome new participants! We are excited to kick off a great new school year together with you all.

Read on for more information about scholarships and other opportunities, high school selection for 8th graders, and our upcoming September events, including:

- Talent Search Program Virtual Orientation
- Common App and College Planning Virtual Session
- Test Prep Study Sessions

Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu.



Meet Our New Counselor, Sofia Rabaté

Talent Search is pleased to introduce the newest member of our team, counselor Sofia Rabaté. Sofia works directly with middle and high school students, helping them achieve their educational goals. Communicating with students, families, and educators, Sofia is dedicated to developing curriculum and programs that meet Talent Search students' needs.

Before joining Talent Search, Sofia taught and tutored at the middle school, high school, and college levels. She was a first-year writing and creative writing instructor at Temple University, where she prioritized interactive, student-centered learning. She also has several years of experience in the field of college advising, having guided many students through the college applications process.

Sofia earned her Bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Creative Writing from the University of Pennsylvania. She later pursued an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Temple University. A lifelong Philadelphian, Sofia's passions include literacy, education, and the arts.



Virtual Orientation: September 26

All Talent Search students, parents, and guardians are invited to join us for a Virtual Orientation on **Tuesday, September 26 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

At this session, you'll learn about the program, meet our staff, and find out what's in store for Fall 2023. It's also a chance to ask any questions you have about what we do and how we can help you!

Join on Zoom:

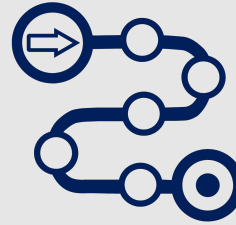
<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/94185299031?pwd=NldUTmFnZ3JtQjVoaFFvY0NiYzVYUT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 941 8529 9031

Passcode: 331535

College Corner: Common App and College Timeline

High school seniors are invited to join Talent Search Counselor Ms. Sofia for this virtual session where you will get a detailed timeline of the college applications process, suggestions for contacting teachers about recommendation letters, and live help as you create a Common App account.



Wednesday, September 13
6:00 to 7:00 pm

Join on Zoom:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92476792898?pwd=UHImlZlhvdFU2NTUrUzB5VEVJbVdZdz09>



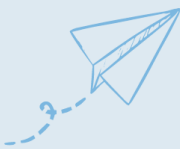
Test Prep Study Sessions

High School juniors and seniors (especially those planning to take the SAT in October) are invited to join us on campus at Penn for two Test Prep Study Sessions. Students will review test-taking strategies and practice reading, writing, and math questions in a relaxed environment.


- **Saturday, September 16:** Reading and Writing (12:30 to 3:30 pm)
- **Saturday, September 30:** Math (12:30 to 3:30 pm)

Students may attend one or both sessions. You must register to attend!

[Click here to register and get more details.](#)




8TH GRADERS:



SOME IMPORTANT HIGH SCHOOL SELECTION DATES

SCHOOL SELECTION OPENS 4PM	SEP 15	SCHOOL SELECTION CLOSES 11:59 PM	OCT 27
PHILLY SCHOOL FAIR (DAY 1) 3-6 PM	OCT 13	PHILLY SCHOOL FAIR (DAY 2) 10 AM - 2 PM	OCT 14

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THE SCHOOL FAIR

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School Selection for 8th graders opens on Friday, September 15. Talent Search will host a **virtual information session on high school selection** in early October —

watch your email for all the details, to be announced soon!

The School District of Philadelphia has two upcoming [School Selection Town Halls](#):

- Thursday, September 7 at George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science (5:00-6:30 pm)
- Friday, September 8 [on Zoom](#) (12:00-1:30pm)

Additionally, students and families will have the opportunity to attend the **K-12 Philly School Fair** on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. [Click here to register for the fair.](#)

Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

Coca-Cola Scholars Program

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to **students in their final year of high school**. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.

150 Coca-Cola Scholars are selected each year to receive this **\$20,000 scholarship**.

Applicants must be:

- Currently enrolled high school/home-schooled students
- Expecting to receive their high school diploma during the current academic year
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution
- Able to verify a minimum overall B/3.0 GPA in high school coursework

[Click to learn more and apply no later than October 2.](#)

NACAC Virtual College Fair

The National Association for College Admission Counseling will host its first fall Virtual College Fair on **Sunday, September 10** from 1:00 to 6:00 pm.

Representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities will be in attendance. Connect and learn about different schools by having a quick video chat with a rep, dropping in on some virtual presentations and/or sending a question through chat.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program

Are you a **current senior in high school**? Do you live in one of the selected North Philadelphia zip codes listed below? Do you attend a public or public charter school in Philadelphia? You may be eligible to be considered for a **full tuition scholarship** through the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program at Temple University.

Eligible ZIP codes: 19121, 19122, 19123, 19125, 19130, 19132, 19133 and 19140.

Temple offers information sessions on selected dates so students can learn more

The Gates Scholarship

The Gates Scholarship is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for outstanding, minority, **high school seniors from low-income households**. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to exceptional student leaders, with the intent of helping them realize their maximum potential.

Scholars will receive **funding for the full cost of attendance that is not already covered** by other financial aid and the expected family contribution, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the methodology used by a scholar's college or university.

To apply, students must be:

- A high school senior
- From at least one of the following ethnicities: African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian & Pacific Islander American, and/or Hispanic American
- Pell-eligible
- A US citizen, national, or permanent resident
- In good academic standing with a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

Additionally, a student must plan to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university.

[Click here to get more information and apply by September 15.](#)

VFW Youth Scholarships

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) offers youth scholarships for high school and middle school students.

The **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides **high school students** with the opportunity to express themselves in a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The 2023-2024 theme is "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?"

The Voice of Democracy national first place winner receives a **\$35,000 scholarship** paid directly to the recipient's university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a scholarship of at least \$1,000.

about the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program consideration process. Information sessions will run from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on the following dates:

- September 15
- September 22
- September 29
- October 6
- October 13

[Click here to learn more and register for an information session.](#)

The **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest for **sixth through eighth graders** awards **\$5,000** to the national first place winner. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500. The essay contest encourages students to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on an annual theme. The 2023-2024 theme is "How are you inspired by America?"

[Click to learn more and submit your entry by October 31.](#)



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