Greetings, Scholars and Families -

Thank you to all who attended our virtual orientation - it was a great turnout, and we're excited to move forward this month with some amazing activities and opportunities for you!

Read on for information on our upcoming events, college application tips, scholarships, and more.

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

High School Selection Virtual Information Session

Eighth grade students, parents, and guardians are invited to join us for a virtual info session on High School Selection in the School District of Philadelphia.

Wednesday, October 4 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Join on Zoom:
https://upenn.zoom.us/j/98092439588?pwd=GzVEd1EyQTl4eVhsb1laZS9VYTF2Zz09

We'll cover the application timeline, changes to the process, and best practices for submitting the application. School selection closes on October 27, so this is a great time to get started if you haven't already!

College Corner: Early Deadlines and College Essay Writing

High school seniors are invited to join Talent Search Counselor Ms. Sofia for two virtual sessions this month. If you need help with college applications and the admissions process, this is the place to be!

Wednesday, October 18
6:00 to 7:00 pm
FOCUS: EARLY DEADLINES
**Wednesday, October 25**

6:00 to 7:00 pm

**FOCUS: COLLEGE ESSAY WRITING**

Join on Zoom: [https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92476792898?pwd=UHlmZIhivdFU2NTUrUzB5VEVJbVdZdz09](https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92476792898?pwd=UHlmZIhivdFU2NTUrUzB5VEVJbVdZdz09)


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**"Be Extra" Workshop**

High School scholars, learn how to boost your student profile with clubs and activities at this fun and productive Talent Search workshop.

**Saturday, October 21**

1:00 to 4:00 pm

On campus at Penn

This event is open to enrolled Talent Search participants in 9th - 12th grades. Spots are limited, and you must register to attend.

[Click to register today!](https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92476792898?pwd=UHlmZIhivdFU2NTUrUzB5VEVJbVdZdz09)

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**Save the Date: Community Service Event, Saturday 11/4**

![Share Food Program Logo](https://via.placeholder.com/100)

A limited number of Talent Search scholars ages 13 and up will be able to join us for a community service event at the [Share Food Program](https://sharefoodprogram.org), the largest food bank and hunger relief organization in the Philadelphia region.

**Saturday, November 4**

8:00 am to 12:30 pm

Meet us on campus at Penn

Registration for this event will open soon - keep an eye on your email if you are interested in this special volunteering opportunity!

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**Common App Tip for High School Seniors**

What to do when you see this question on the Common App

**Waive FERPA rights?**

It's your choice, but in general, it's best to answer YES.

FERPA stands for Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It's a law about your access to your educational records.

By "waiving" your right and choosing YES, you give up the right to see your recommendation letters.
High school seniors, you will notice a question on the Common App asking if you will waive your FERPA rights. FERPA stands for Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It’s a law about your access to your educational records.

It’s your choice how to answer this question, but in general, it's best to answer YES. By waiving your right and choosing "yes," you give up the right to see your recommendation letters. Teachers prefer when you don’t read their letters, and this shows colleges that your teachers are being honest in what they write about you.

Need more help with this or other Common App questions? Contact Talent Search counselor Sofia Rabaté at smrabate@upenn.edu.

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**Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars**

**Drexel Liberty Scholars Program**

Through the Liberty Scholars program, Drexel University provides 65 recent high school graduates from across the nation with a renewable scholarship award that covers 100 percent of tuition and fees. Additionally, the program fosters student success and holistic support through a dedicated faculty or professional staff mentor, a Living Learning Community in which all scholars live during their first two years, co-curricular programming, extracurricular and developmental programming, and active engagement with campus life.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents applying for general admission to Drexel University as first-year students and have demonstrated financial need. The scholarship is open to all new first-year applicants in all majors as long as it is an on-campus, full-time, undergraduate program.

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

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

- Thursday, October 5
- Thursday, October 12

[Click here to register for an info session.](#)

**Teen Voices of the City Ensemble**

Teen Voices of the City Ensemble (T-VOCE) is a FREE inclusive choir that welcomes youth from all backgrounds to share their talents and be themselves in a safe and supportive space.

Open to anyone ages 13–19, T-VOCE uses choral music to build musicianship and vocal skills, but also as a means of self-expression, to explore issues important to the participants, and to build community.

T-VOCE welcomes everyone and embraces all the talents that you bring to T-VOCE. There are no auditions: all you need is a love of singing! It’s FREE to participate!

Rehearsals will take place Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., October through April at Friend Center (1501 Cherry Street).

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

**Burger King Scholars**

Created in memory of Burger King Co-Founder James “Jim” W. McLamore, the Burger King Scholars program provides scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $50,000 to high school students and Burger King employees and their families.

Scholarships are intended to offset the cost of attending college or post-secondary vocational/technical school. Recipients are selected through an application process that takes into consideration their grade point average (GPA), work experience, extracurricular activities, and community service.

The application period for the 2023-2024 cycle begins October 16 and closes December 15.

[Click here to get more information and begin your application.](#)