

Important Dates

Tuesday, November 5
**SDP Closed for
Election Day**

Friday, November 15
**SDP Closed for Term 1
Report Card Conferences**

Wednesday, November 27
**SDP Three-Hour Early
Dismissal**

November 28-29
**SDP Closed for
Thanksgiving Recess**



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

An amazing group of 23 students joined us for last month's volunteering session at Share Food. We appreciate their generosity of time and willingness to contribute to our neighbors in need!

For those who weren't able to attend, no worries! We have another community service opportunity (open to ALL grades 6-12) coming in December...watch your email for details.

Read on for information on this month's College Corner session, tips for balancing screen time, and more!

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



Princeton University Campus Tour

Due to high demand and a limited number of spots for our upcoming visit to Princeton University, the trip is now full. **All students who secured spots have been sent a confirmation email.**



Enrolled scholars in **grades 9-12** who would like to be added to the [waiting list](#) should fill out the form linked below no later than Sunday, November 10.

The trip is scheduled for Friday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **[Click here to be added to the waiting list.](#)**

College Corner: School-Specific Essays

Hosted by Talent Search counselor Ms. Sofia, College Corner is a free, virtual webinar series covering all things college. Although College Corner is especially helpful for high school seniors, all Talent Search scholars (and parent/guardians!) are welcome to attend.

Join this month's session on Wednesday, November 13 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We'll go over tips and tricks for writing **school-specific essays** on college applications.

Zoom Link:


<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/96282389133?pwd=rQga19tbIVv6F2Z4wKbhVnZdhEY8b4.1>

Join me on Zoom!

College Corner:
School Specific Essays

Tips & tricks for supplemental essays, including "Why this School" short essays.

Wednesday
Nov. 13
6-7pm

Presented by:
 **Penn**
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
Talent Search



Tips for Media Balance and Well-Being

From phones and tablets to streaming movies and YouTube, tech and media are everywhere. Kids love easy access to TV shows, games, and information. Parents and caregivers love that kids can stay in contact while they explore their independence. But it's easy to overdo it when the phone never stops pinging and the next episode plays automatically. Families can keep media and tech use in check by following a few simple practices. Check out these tips:

Create screen-free times and zones. Help tweens and teens take breaks from tech by limiting screen time in bedrooms, during study time, or at the dinner table. Consider carving out regular family time when screens are either put away or enjoyed together.

Explore built-in digital well-being tools. Together with your kids, check out the features on their devices and in their apps that can help them use tech more intentionally. Consider turning off autoplay functions, limiting notifications from certain apps, using settings that turn off devices at a certain time each night, and more.

Model the behavior you want to see. Tweens and teens learn more from watching adult behavior than listening to lectures. Consider how you use your devices and other media, and make changes if your use doesn't follow your expectations for your kids.

Help kids identify healthy behaviors. Ask kids to notice their feelings, both physical and emotional, during screen and non-screen activities. Does their heart rate increase when their phone vibrates? Does their self-esteem dip after viewing a friend's Instagram feed? Do they feel good when they get positive feedback on a post? Encourage kids to keep the constructive activities and let go of the rest.

Understand how tech companies make money. Along with your tween and teen, research how digital devices, social media platforms, and apps and games get paid. Do they sell ads? Do they sell kids' data? Discuss why companies might want kids to spend more time on their platforms and what tricks they use to keep their attention.

**Source: Common Sense Media, <https://www.commonsense.org/education/family-tips/6-12-media-balance-and-well-being>*

Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

Franklin Institute STEM Scholars

The STEM Scholars program serves a select group of Philadelphia-area students in grades 9-12 who are passionate about science, technology, engineering, and math subjects. The STEM Scholars Program is a four-year college and career preparation program that recruits **20 freshman students in the Philadelphia area** each year, aiming to reach those from communities historically under recognized in STEM.

STEM Scholars programming includes hands-on workshops, academic enrichment, exposure to a variety of STEM and STEAM industries, professional development, entrepreneurial experiences, ACT test preparation and college essay tutoring, and college and career readiness.

STEM Scholars attend **weekly workshops** during the academic year and a **summer program** that runs Monday through Thursday in July and August. Rising senior STEM Scholars participate in an off-site internship and are matched with professionals for a summer of immersive, real-world learning. STEM Scholars is a **FREE** program, with fees covered by generous donors of the Franklin Institute.

[Click here to get more information and apply by November 13.](#)

Penn Young Scholars High School Program

The Young Scholars High School Program allows outstanding students attending a local high school to take college courses. In the Young Scholars Program, you can pursue your discipline beyond the level offered in secondary schools, **get a head start on your college requirements**, or explore a brand-new field that interests you. Topics offered include anthropology, economics, English, math, philosophy, linguistics, psychology, and many more.

Young Scholars Program students are evaluated by the same academic standards and procedures as Penn undergraduates. Students **earn one course unit* (1 c.u., the equivalent of 4 college credit hours) for each course taken.**

During the fall and spring semesters, students attending City of Philadelphia public and charter schools are eligible for **tuition-free participation** in the program. Once admitted to the program, students take one course in the fall and spring semesters tuition-free.

For spring 2025, the Young Scholars Program is open to local high school students who are **current juniors and seniors**. Beginning in fall 2025 and beyond, the program will only be open to current juniors.

[Click here to get more information and](#)

Ron Brown Scholar Program

The Ron Brown Scholarship advances higher education for **community-minded and intellectually gifted African Americans**. The program awards 20 to 25 four-year **\$40,000 scholarships** (\$10,000 each year) to the most **talented and economically-challenged high school seniors** who demonstrate a keen interest in public service, community engagement, business entrepreneurship and global citizenship.

Recipients may use the renewable scholarships to attend an accredited four-year college or university of their choice within the United States. Ron Brown scholarships are not limited to any specific field or career objective and may be used to pursue any academic discipline.

Applicants **MUST** be Black/African American, US citizens or permanent residents, and a current high school senior at the time of their application.

[Click here to learn more and apply by December 1.](#)



[apply by December 1.](#)

Penn Academy for Reproductive Sciences (PARS)

Ever wonder what an embryo looks like as it develops? If so, then you should think about applying to PARS! **High school students (grades 10-12)**, who are interested in science and medicine, are invited to apply.

A FREE workshop led by expert clinicians and scientists, PARS incorporates a mix of small-group discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on lab activities to explore current research topics in reproductive health. Topics include: female reproductive anatomy and physiology, fertilization, embryo development, stem cells, genetics, epigenetics, and oncofertility. You will also dive into a journal article, discuss ethical decision-making, and prepare for future careers in science and medicine!

PARS will run four consecutive Saturdays in March. Participants must be able to attend all four sessions to apply and **be eligible for the paid summer internship** starting the end of June through the beginning of August.

[Click here to get more information and apply by January 17.](#)



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