



TUESDAY TELEGRAPH NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE April 28, 2026

As a reminder, every day this week will follow a Monday/Friday bell schedule, and Wednesday will be a regular x-block day.

Seniors - Class of 2026

Graduation Reminders

The Commencement Ceremony is **May 18 at 7:00 pm** at the Kennesaw State University Convocation Center!

There are **two required graduation practices** for any graduate planning to participate in the commencement ceremony:

- **Wednesday, May 13 at 1:45 pm in the PAC Gym**
- **Thursday, May 14 at 12:00 pm in the PAC Gym**

All guests must have a ticket. Graduation Ticket Requests that were made through the portal are now available; all requests were honored. If additional tickets are needed, extras will be available at graduation rehearsal.

All students must have an approved **cap and gown** to wear at the commencement ceremony. If you are still in need of these items, please purchase them ASAP through <https://atlgrad.com/>.

If you have earned a **service cord and/or an honor cord**, they will be given out at graduation practice.

The Commencement Information Guide and Schedule of Activities is available on our school website: [Graduation Information](#). Please read through this entire document as it contains critical information regarding graduation requirements and related activities.

All seniors planning to participate in the graduation ceremony must have a [graduation contract](#) signed by the student and parent/guardian. The contract must be returned to the Attendance Office/PPO at Pope by THIS FRIDAY, May 1.

Senior Survey Information


Seniors! The end of the school year, and your high school graduation, are rapidly approaching! As a flurry of activity, AP tests, finals, parties, and more overtake your lives, we counselors want to take a moment to wish you an early congratulations. You've done an amazing job. We are so proud of the **Class of 2026** and can't wait to see the incredible things you will do!

Below are some Counseling-related steps that we need ALL SENIORS to complete along with some reminders about the HOPE/Zell/HOPE Grant Programs. Counselors reviewed the survey with seniors during English classes last week. **If you missed the lesson or do not take a Lit class at Pope, please stop by the Counseling Office to complete the survey.**

Listing scholarship award amounts is optional, but it's always exciting to compile the total scholarship amount of each graduating class to highlight the amazing accomplishments you have achieved each year! We ask that you list all

awards you've been **offered** (so, even the awards at colleges you are not attending). We will NOT be publishing any individual student names/awards; only a total amount compiled together for one grand total. Please do NOT list projected HOPE/Zell/Grant amounts, since this will be determined after graduation.

Senior 2026 MUST-DO Check List



Complete your Required Naviance "Class of 2026 Graduation Survey" (under Tasks From My School).

- Check your post-HS plan.
- Update ALL your college results.
- CHECK **"ATTENDING"** for the college you're attending.
- CHECK **"SEND FINAL TRANSCRIPT"** for the college you're attending and any other institute that needs a final (NCAA, waitlist college, etc.).
- List ALL your awarded scholarships and dollar amounts (excluding HOPE/Zell).
- Provide your post-graduation contact information.
- **This is how you request your Final Transcript!**
- Deadline - April 24 (we can re-open for adjustments)
- We will send final transcripts AFTER the last day of school.

✓ Apply for HOPE/Zell/HOPE Grant
Two options (we recommend both):

1. FAFSA - www.fafsa.gov (you must submit yearly)
2. GSFAPP - www.gafutures.org (good for 10 years)

**See page 2 for additional HOPE/Zell details!

✓ See Your Counselor
If you have questions and/or are still undecided about what to do after graduation, we can help!

HOPE/Zell/Grant Programs

BASICS

All HOPE programs require the following:

- Students must meet residency/citizenship requirements.
- Males must register for selective service www.sss.gov when they turn 18.
 - Registering for selective services is required by federal law.
- Students must apply through the FAFSA and/or GSFAPP.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- **HOPE Scholarship** - 3.0 HOPE GPA
 - Varies each year - pays a large portion of tuition to GA public 2- & 4-year colleges
- **Zell Miller Scholarship** - 3.7 HOPE GPA and either 1200 SAT or 25 ACT
 - Pays 100% tuition to University System of GA institutions (public 2/4-year colleges
 - Must maintain 3.3 in college
- HOPE/Zell both also require 4 courses of "rigor":
 - ex: AdvAlg+, Chem/Phys/Anat/Astro, Span2+/Fren2+/Germ2+, core DE/APs, & more
 - Full list of courses that count for "rigor" can be found on www.gafutures.org
- A portion of HOPE funds are awarded to students attending private GA colleges.
- **HOPE Grant** - no min GPA out of high school, but must maintain a 2.0 in college
 - Award varies each year (large portion of tuition at TCSG institutions)
 - For certificates/diplomas only
- **HOPE Career Grant** - no min GPA out of high school, but must maintain a 2.0 in college
 - Provides additional funding beyond HOPE Grant to equal 100% tuition!
 - Funds tuition specifically for "high demand" careers
 - Funds certificates/diplomas at technical colleges only
- **Zell Miller Grant** - will fund 100% tuition after earning a 3.5 after each term at technical colleges for certificates/diplomas

SENDING SAT/ACT SCORES FOR ZELL

- Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ZellSATACT> for details on submitting SAT/ACT scores to www.gafutures.org for Zell eligibility.
- Qualifying score must be earned before HS graduation.

HOPE GPA CALCULATION

- HOPE/Zell GPA can ONLY be found at www.gafutures.org.
- **REMINDER!! The HOPE GPA is NOT on Pope transcript!!**
- HOPE GPA weights only core AP/DE classes with 0.5 extra quality point up to a 4.0.
- The HOPE GPA is usually *lower* than both the Pope weighted & unweighted GPAs (but not always) because it is based only on core classes (Engl, math, sci, soc st, and for lang)

Senior Walks at Elementary Schools

SENIORS! Grab your caps and gowns and head down memory lane at your elementary school!



SENIOR WALK

**Monday
May 18, 2026
8:30 AM**


- Please arrive @ Murdock by 8:15am
- Parking is limited - please carpool if possible
- We encourage you to wear your cap and gown
- Parents of graduating seniors are welcome

Pictures and light refreshments in the covered play area to conclude the walk

Questions?
770.509.5071

Shallowford Falls Elementary Senior Walk May 18, 2026

Light refreshments	Arrive: 8:30 Walk: 8:45	Games with Mrs. Douglas
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TIMBER RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Welcomes the Graduating
Class of 2026 to your

SENIOR WALK!

- Please wait until 7:50 AM to enter the parking lot AFTER carpool ends.
- After 7:50, gather on blacktop (near bus entrance).
- PTA and Staff will come out to greet you for a group photo and the walk.
- Wear your cap and gown.
- Parents are invited!
- We can't wait to celebrate you!

Monday,
May 18
8:15 am



TRITT ELEMENTARY HOSTS

Alumni Senior Walk

CLASS OF 2026
MONDAY, MAY 18TH, 2026
START: 7:30 AM
END: 8:30 AM

MIX AND MINGLE STARTING AT 7:30 AM.
PARENTS & FAMILIES AT THE COVERED PLAY AREA.
ONLY SENIORS WILL MEET IN THE LLC.

SENIOR WALK AND CLASS PICTURE AT 8:00 AM.
SENIORS WILL MEET FAMILY OUTSIDE IN THE BUS LANES AFTER THE EVENT.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR CAP AND GOWN.

PARKING IS VERY LIMITED. PLEASE CARPOOL.

RSVP USING QR CODE BELOW.



TeenLife Presents Your Future In...



Planning for life after high school can feel overwhelming—for students and the people supporting them. That's why TeenLife created this series of free, easy-to-use digital guides designed to turn uncertainty into clarity and direction. Check out the guides below.

[Your Future in Business & Entrepreneurship](#): From corporate careers to launching your own venture, this guide breaks down how students can develop business skills and an entrepreneurial mindset while still in school.

[Your Future in Global Impact](#): For students who want to make a difference, this guide explores careers in social impact, sustainability, policy, and international work—and how to get started early.

[Your Future in STEM](#): Discover pathways in science, technology, engineering, and math—plus how to start building skills early through coursework, projects, and hands-on experiences.

[Your Future in Healthcare](#): Learn about careers in medicine, public health, and patient care, along with actionable steps students can take now to prepare for this impactful field.

Information for All Grades

Chattahoochee Technical College Hosts Open House April 30

Chatt Tech's Open House gives you the opportunity to learn more about the programs of study offered at the college. You'll also receive information on admission requirements, financial aid, and student services and resources that are available.

Marietta Campus
OPEN HOUSE

Visit Our Programs **ChattahoocheeTech** Meet Our Instructors

Admissions and Financial Aid Information

Thursday, April 30, 2026
5 PM - 7 PM

Marietta Campus
Building H
980 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060

ChattahoocheeTech.edu
Where you thrive.

KSU – DiscoverU Summer Camps

DiscoverU at KSU is a summer camp program designed specifically for high school students. They offer engaging week-long summer camps that provide students the chance to experience a taste of college life, while also having fun! The camps are designed to be enjoyed by all students, regardless of experience level. Spots are limited, and camps are filling up fast.

[Summer Camps for High Schoolers | DiscoverU at KSU CPE](#)

Our main page to see camp dates/descriptions

[Adulting 101](#)

This camp is perfect for any student looking for guidance in career planning and in building skills for life after high school. Students will learn about building their professional brand and have professional headshot photos taken, learn about budgeting, career path options, and so much more!

[Chef's Master Class](#)

Students will take a daily culinary trip around the world with our professional chef instructor. This camp is perfect for students looking to pursue a career in the culinary arts or establish foundational food preparation, food safety, and knife skills to empower them to cook their own meals in the future.

[Baking and Pastry](#)

We have two camps designed for aspiring bakers or for any students looking to have a fun time in the kitchen this summer designing (and enjoying!) amazing baked goods.

[Medical Skills](#)

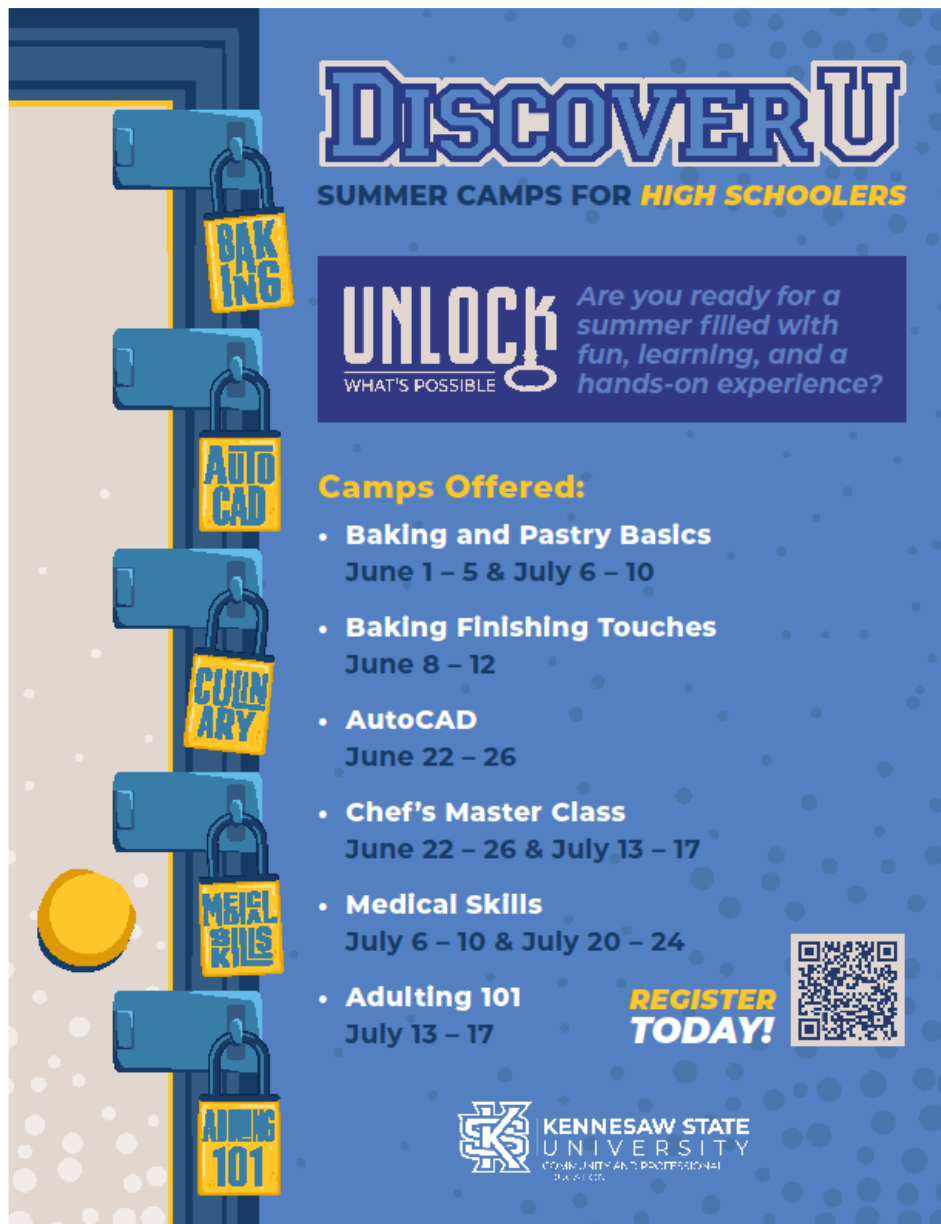
This camp, taught by a nurse instructor, is designed for students curious about pursuing a future path in the healthcare field and gives students practical hands-on experiences in a classroom and lab setting, career planning ideas, as well as an introduction to CPR/AED/Basic Life Support.

[AutoCAD](#)

The AutoCAD camp is perfect for students thinking about pursuing a career as an engineer, architect, landscape designer, event planner, and more!

Aerospace Engineering [STEM Summer Camps](#)

Designed for students curious about aeronautics and aerospace engineering, this partnership camp with KSU's SPCEET is held on KSU's Marietta Campus and is designed for both Middle and High School students.



The poster features a vertical strip on the left with five blue padlocks, each with a yellow tag. The tags are labeled: BAKING, AUTO CAD, CULINARY, MEAL PLANS, and ADULTING 101. The background is blue with white polka dots.

DISCOVER U


SUMMER CAMPS FOR **HIGH SCHOOLERS**


UNLOCK *Are you ready for a summer filled with fun, learning, and a hands-on experience?*
WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Camps Offered:

- **Baking and Pastry Basics**
June 1 – 5 & July 6 – 10
- **Baking Finishing Touches**
June 8 – 12
- **AutoCAD**
June 22 – 26
- **Chef's Master Class**
June 22 – 26 & July 13 – 17
- **Medical Skills**
July 6 – 10 & July 20 – 24
- **Adulting 101**
July 13 – 17

REGISTER TODAY!



 **KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY**
COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Georgia Ready Summer Institute



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

Occurring **July 7-12**, the Georgia Ready Summer Institute (GRSI) is a one-week cohort-based residential program for high-achieving high school students in Georgia who are entering their senior year. With an underlying focus on research and innovation, the Institute will provide students an opportunity to deepen their pre-collegiate credentials through this transformative program. As part of the experience, selected GRSI Scholars will begin exploring connections between their academic interests and career pathways, as well as the impact research and innovation have upon entrepreneurial and commercialization endeavors across the state. Additionally, attendees will get a glimpse of

what life as a UGA scholar could be like. Through living in a campus residence hall, eating at the dining facilities, touring the Athens campus and research facilities, they hope that GRIS Scholars leave the Institute UGA ready! For more information and to apply, click [here](#). Applications are due **May 3rd**, and there is no cost to attend this program.

Applerouth – Ask the Experts: Advice from College Admissions Officers

Join admissions officers from UGA, Syracuse University, George Washington University, and University of Wisconsin on **May 6th at 7 pm** as they provide insights on:

- **Test-Optional vs. Test-Preferred:** When submitting test scores helps, and when it's better not to.
- **The Role of AI in Applications:** How students can use AI wisely, and what raises red flags with colleges.
- **Fit to Major & Academic Direction:** Why a student's intended major can affect admissions chances and course choices.
- **Early Decision vs. Regular Decision Timing:** When applying early improves odds, and when waiting makes more sense.
- **Extracurricular Impact:** Why meaningful involvement and leadership matter more than long activity lists.
- **What's Changing in 2026:** New trends in policies and priorities families should be watching now.

Engage in a live Q&A to address your specific questions. Register [here](#). Can't Attend Live? Register to receive the recording post-event.

ASK THE EXPERTS

What Matters Most in College Admissions

Advice from admissions officers who review applications at top universities — **Including UGA**

📅 Wednesday, May 6 ⌚ 7 PM EST [Secure Your Spot](#)

Get an inside look at how applications are evaluated — and what actually makes a difference in today's admissions landscape.

Meet the Admission Officers

- Ashley Templeton, UGA
- Carol Lee Concher, GW University
- Laura Robitaille, Wisconsin
- Michael McGrath, Syracuse

You'll Learn About:

- **2026 Trends:** What families should know now
- **Test Scores:** When submitting helps—and when it doesn't
- **AI in Applications:** Smart use vs. red flags
- **Fit to Major:** Why academic direction matters
- **Early vs. Regular Decision:** When early helps
- **Extracurriculars:** Depth and leadership over long lists



Register Now

applerouth.com/college-admissions-webinars

Can't make it live? Register anyway and we'll send you the recording.



Fly-In Opportunities at Bowdoin, Dartmouth, and Williams

Explore [Bowdoin College](#), [Dartmouth](#), and/or [Williams College](#) on an all-expenses paid college visit for high-achieving low-income and/or first generation high school seniors. Click on the school links for details including application deadlines and college visit dates. These are wonderful opportunities, and preference is given to those students who would not otherwise be able to afford to visit.

2026 Summer Cobb Course Refresher

The Cobb Course Refresher provides students with an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of course content by reviewing digital lessons. Students who register for the Cobb Course Refresher may REVIEW content for courses taken during the 2025-2026 school year or PREVIEW courses they will take during the 2026-2027 school year. Registration is open **May 1-29** and there is a mandatory (online) orientation on June 1. For a list of available courses and for more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#). This is a FREE opportunity!

Skyland Trail Offers Programs for Teens and Families



FREE WEBINAR SERIES

Parenting Skills

SESSIONS:

- MAY 13**
DBT Bootcamp: Parenting Skills for Big Emotions
- AUGUST 26**
School Success: Parenting Skills for Time Management and Goal Achievement
- NOVEMBER 4**
Digital Health: Parenting Skills for Managing Technology

PRESENTERS:
Caitlin Connolly, LCSW, CAAD
Piper Coffey, LCSW



REGISTER

www.skylandtrail.org/parents



OUTPATIENT GROUPS

FOR TEENS & PARENTS

5-WEEK SESSIONS
June 9 - July 21
July 21 - August 18



- Teen Wellness Academy**
✓ Teens struggling with emotional challenges learn skills to manage stress, relationships, and school.
- Parenting is a Process**
✓ Parents of teens with emerging mental health or behavioral concerns learn tools to improve family cohesion and dynamics.

Virtual and in-person options.



LEARN MORE skylandtrail.org/outpatient-groups

Rising Juniors – Important Immunization Information

Per the Georgia Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday. Please visit this link: <https://dph.georgia.gov/media/89331/download> for a summary of vaccination requirements by age.

In accordance with this requirement, all Pope students entering the 11th grade, who will be 16 by August 3, 2026, must submit an updated Certificate of Immunization, on GA Form 3231, to the Pope Counseling Office prior to the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Students, who are not yet 16 by August 3rd will have 30 calendar days from the student's 16th birthday to provide the updated Certificate of Immunization. Students must meet this requirement, or provide acceptable exemption documentation, for them to be/remain enrolled in school. Students requesting to be exempt from Immunization must present a signed, notarized Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization, DPH Form 2208.

We prefer that you upload your updated Certificate of Immunization/Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization to ParentVUE. Once logged in, you will click on Change My Information → Student Information → Enrollment Documents where you will be able to upload the document. Paper and emailed copies will be accepted as well.

For additional information on immunization schedules, exemptions, and laws governing these requirements, please visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines>.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lisa Squier in the Counseling Office at 770-578-7903 or lisa.squier@cobbk12.org. All paper and emailed documents should also be directed to Mrs. Squier.

Are You Leaving Pope High School After this Semester?

If your student will be transferring out of Pope after the spring semester ends on May 20th, they must be withdrawn from Pope High School. Please contact Lisa Squier to arrange to have a Withdrawal Form sent to you to sign and return to our office. If your student is transferring to another Cobb County School, they will take their laptop with them. If your student is leaving the district, they must return their laptop to Mrs. Squier in the Counseling Office after they have completed their last exam. When you enroll at the new school, you will be required to provide the signed Withdrawal Form. Ask your new enrolling school to request records from Lisa Squier at Lisa.Squier@cobbk12.org to have your Official Transcript sent to the school. Transcripts will be sent after semester grades have been posted in June.

Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year is Open

Families who will be new to Pope, coming from a private school, home school, out of town, or returning to the Cobb County School District, are asked to register their students through the CCSD online portal, found [here](#). Additional information and documents required for enrollment can be found [here](#). Please pass this on to any friends or neighbors who will have a new student at Pope next year (NOT for students coming from our feeder schools of Dodgen and Hightower). Once you have completed your registration and uploaded supporting documents, reach out to our registration clerk lisa.squier@cobbk12.org for an appointment to finalize your student's enrollment.

Pope Counseling Office

CONTACT US

Anna Leathers, A-D anna.leathers@cobbk12.org	Bradleigh Perkinson, 504 Coordinator bradleigh.perkinson@cobbk12.org
Leslie Shearstone, E-K leslie.shearstone@cobbk12.org	Karen Anderson, Clerk karen.anderson@cobbk12.org
Cheryl Gully, L-Q cheryl.gully@cobbk12.org	Lisa Squier, Records/ParentVUE lisa.squier@cobbk12.org
Jamie Hamrick, R-Z jamie.hamrick@cobbk12.org	

Pope Counseling Website:
<https://www.popeschoolcounseling.com/>

**Follow us on Instagram @popecounseling and
Facebook at Pope High School Counseling Department**