

COMMODORE CHRONICLE



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What should I get for a high school graduate?

You're *really* going
to like this card.



Something personal

The best gifts are often those that are personalized, like an engraved necklace, photobook, a family cookbook or custom wall art. Consider fun memories you've made with the [graduate](#), as well as their hobbies, passions and even future career field. Custom gifts can be designed and found on websites such as Etsy and Shutterfly.

College apparel

Many students show off their school spirit by wearing their college-branded tank tops, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, shorts and hats at [sports games](#), at tailgates, in class or even running errands. Apparel, as well as themed bumper stickers, stuffed animals and other items are typically available at a college's bookstore or online shop. Some merchandise may also be sold in local grocery stores if the campus is nearby.

Board games

College students interact with new people on a daily basis, including in a classroom, residence hall, club meeting or at the gym. But making genuine connections can be difficult and intimidating. Playing board games can help ease that awkwardness and connect graduates with their [roommate](#), hallmates or classmates. Consider gifting board games like Cards Against Humanity, Pictionary, Bananagrams, Taboo or the classic lengthy game of Monopoly.

Coffee maker or electric kettle

College students are notorious for pulling all-nighters to cram for exams or finish last-minute assignments. So waking up for an early morning class may require a little extra help from a caffeinated drink like coffee or tea. Instead of having to walk to a [dining hall](#) first thing in the morning or spending money at a nearby coffee shop, students can instead make a drink right in their dorm room with a coffee maker or electric kettle, if permitted.

Audiobook subscription

Some graduates prefer to binge television shows as a way to relax, while others bury themselves in a good book. For bookworms, a monthly subscription to audiobook services, such as Audible, Bookbeat or Scribd, can be used on a daily basis. Students can listen to books before bed, while on a [study](#) break or during a trip back to their hometown.

Headphones

Quality headphones are key for walks between [classes](#), studying in noisy public areas on campus or working out at the gym. But the type of headphones to gift depends on the graduate's lifestyle. If the student is a runner, for instance, be sure to look for headphones that will stand up to lots of movement or consider wireless earbud options.

Suitcase

Whether a graduate is traveling to and from campus during holiday breaks, or flying to a new state or country during their [gap year](#), a suitcase helps keep clothes, toiletries and other personal items organized. Consider buying a sturdy duffel bag, a carry-on piece of luggage or even a full set – if the graduate has enough space to store it.

Mini refrigerator

For students living in [residence halls](#) – who don't have access to full kitchens – many colleges offer the option to rent a mini refrigerator to store any soft drinks, perishable groceries or leftover food in their room. But gifting one instead eliminates the rental fees and allows graduates to keep it for more than one year.

Personal safe

Personal items can go missing in hotels or hostels while a graduate is traveling during a gap year or on vacation. And though college campuses are fairly [safe](#), theft also occurs in residence halls as students sometimes forget to lock their doors or decide to host a gathering in their room. To prevent this, gift graduates a personal safe to store their valuables.

Small toolkit

[Graduates](#) don't have to be craftsmen to get use out of a toolkit. This practical gift can come in handy for all kinds of projects and simple household tasks, like hanging art, assembling furniture or patching up holes in the wall to avoid fines at the end of the year. Small, affordable toolkits with the basics – a hammer, screwdrivers, Allen wrenches, etc. – should cover general needs.

Cash

Though a cash gift isn't the most creative, it provides the recipient with flexibility on what to purchase. Those pursuing work after [high school](#) may need money for basic essentials like rent and groceries before finding a job. If the graduate is taking a gap year, a little extra cash can go toward new experiences and excursions.

Wizard of Oz



We hope you enjoyed our very successful show.
Take a look at some of the photos.



“Sooooomewhere, over the rainbow...”



“With the thoughts you’d be thinkin’...”



“”Oh no. That’s Aunt Em. I better get home”



“Why, you’re nothing but a great big coward.”



“Weeeeeee’re off to see the Wizard...”



“How dare you steal my apples!”



“Ding Dong the witch is dead...”



“Who killed my sister?”



“Are you a good witch or a bad witch?”



FRAZIER MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB 2023-24



[:https://www.facebook.com/frazier.drama.club.boosters?mibextid=LQQJ4d](https://www.facebook.com/frazier.drama.club.boosters?mibextid=LQQJ4d)

Check  for updates

Congratulations to our Senior Drama Club member



Savannah Ford (Aunt Em, Ensemble) Savannah is in 12th grade and is feeling bittersweet about her last high school performance. She was in several productions, but her favorites were when she played The Ugly Duckling in *Shrek Jr.* and an ancestor in *The Addams Family Jr.* Savannah hopes to continue theater when she gets to college. Her favorite things are singing, drawing, and spending time with her family. Her dream is to live in New York and be a 2nd grade teacher.

Good Luck, Savannah!

Your dedication, hard work, and friendship will be missed. We wish you all the best!

Mr Rafail, Mrs Pleva, and the Frazier Drama Club

SUMMER CAMPS

The

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

<https://www.pointpark.edu/admissions/request-info-form>

Arts & Sciences **Business** **Cinema Arts** **Communications** **Dance**

Arts & Sciences Summer Camps and Intensives

Embark on a journey of creativity and discovery this summer!

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of Arts and Sciences with our dynamic summer camps. From imaginative realms to literary brilliance and investigative intrigue, our camps offer a unique blend of experiences.

Business Summer Camps and Intensives

Dive into the exciting world of commerce and entrepreneurship with our diverse lineup of specialized camps. Discover new insights,

develop essential skills, and prepare for your future career with dynamic workshops tailored to ignite your passion for business. Explore the possibilities and seize the opportunity for growth and learning this summer!

Summer Cinema Arts High School Programs

Join a group of like-minded filmmakers as you learn the essentials of cinema production. Our programs offer pre-professional, intensive hands-on education in narrative filmmaking, with collaboration at its core. Please note that these high school programs are all on a first-come, first-serve basis and offer an intimate class size.

Summer Communications High School Programs

Network with professionals and explore avenues in media and communications. Led by leading field experts, all programming is career-focused with experiential opportunities to develop outside of the classroom.

Summer Dance Intensives

Our dance programs welcome talented dancers, teachers and musicians from around the globe. All programs offer comprehensive dance instruction specialized in ballet, jazz and modern.

Day trips for Summer 2024!

Which one will become your new favorite?



Moraine State Park

Located about an hour north of Pittsburgh, Moraine State Park is a 16,725-acre park in Butler County with a large lake and many hiking trails worth exploring. Visit the south shore in the morning for hikes on the Sunken Garden and Hilltop Trails- two of our favorites.



Afterwards, return through Butler to visit the ~30-foot waterfall at Fall Run Park off of Route 8 in Glenshaw at the end of the day!



Meadowcroft Rockshelter

Located an hour west of Pittsburgh is a unique archaeological site, the Meadowcroft Rockshelter. Human artifacts were found here in 1955 and many more were found in subsequent excavations- the oldest finds date back as far as 16,000 years!

This seasonal spot is perfect for a day out of the city, and on your return trip be sure to stop at the Golden Pig in Cecil for Korean food that has a die-hard following!



McConnells Mill

McConnells Mill State Park is known for having a historical mill, a beautiful covered bridge, and many waterfalls that can be seen from the many hiking trails (one of the easiest being the Hell's Hollow trail located about 15 minutes drive from the mill). If you need a bit more to do and can time your visit right, stop at The Harmony Museum for some history of the region as well or detour to Evans City to check out the cemetery where Night of the Living Dead was filmed!



Fort Ligonier

Fort Ligonier in the borough of the same name is a full reconstruction of the 18th-century fort and offers tours highlighting the region's early history. This seasonal attraction can be enjoyed in just a few hours, so afterward head a few miles down the road to the kid-oriented theme park Idlewild! Looking for more day trip options a bit further out? Head down to the Laurel Highlands to hike or go white water rafting at Ohiopyle State Park or go skiing in the winter at Seven Springs— both just a bit more than an hour away from Pittsburgh!



The Westmoreland Museum of American Art

The Westmoreland Museum of American Art is an art museum in Greensburg, Pennsylvania devoted to American art, with a particular concentration on the art of southwestern Pennsylvania. Art lover Mary Marchand Woods bequeathed her entire estate to establish The Woods Marchand Foundation in 1949. Check out this local gem and discover Pennsylvania artists you might not know.

Write Your Representative!

Recently, eighth graders wrote letters to state representatives to discuss Pennsylvania's driving laws. Take a look and see which laws you support. Names have been changed for privacy reasons.

Dear Representative,

I wanted to express my opinions about the state's existing teen driving laws as a teenager excitedly awaiting the milestone of getting my driver's license in Pennsylvania. I am 15 years old and live near Philadelphia, PA. As many of my friends and I approach this crucial time in our lives, it's a topic that is very important to us. In the following letter, I will discuss a wide variety of the existing laws and whether or not I agree with them. I will also be discussing the differences in laws between Pennsylvania and the neighboring state, West Virginia.

Although I respect the goals of Pennsylvania's juvenile driver laws, I think certain areas should be improved to guarantee both practicality and safety. The need for teenagers to maintain a learner's permit for six months before obtaining a junior driver's license is one element that appeals to me. During this time, inexperienced drivers can obtain important experience and confidence behind the wheel under the guidance of a certified adult driver. Because of this, I support this law. In addition, it's a great idea to prioritize finishing a Driver's Education course to speed up the senior driver's license application process. These courses teach good driving habits from the beginning in addition to imparting vital knowledge about road safety.

However, I can't help but notice the difference in the age at which teenagers can get their driver's licenses when comparing Pennsylvania's laws with those of nearby states like West Virginia. Teenagers in West Virginia can obtain a learner's permit at the age of fifteen and advance to a provisional license by the time they are sixteen, a full year earlier than in Pennsylvania. I dislike this law because it negatively impacts teens. Although this time difference might not seem like much, for many teenagers, it can have a big impact on their life outside of the classroom because it may restrict students' abilities to attend activities outside of school like sports or even a part-time job.

Furthermore, although well-meaning, Pennsylvania's requirement that all teens who apply for junior licenses complete 65 hours of driving practice, including nighttime and bad weather, may provide difficulties for young people with limited access to resources or cars. This can unintentionally hurt people from low-income families who might find it difficult to fulfill these standards.

Taking these things into account, I offer a complete plan of my proposal for Pennsylvanian drivers that attempts to balance accessibility and safety. First off, to better match with nearby states like West Virginia, I support changing the age requirements for acquiring a learner's permit to 15 years of age. This modification would enable Pennsylvania teenagers to obtain crucial driving experience at a younger age, thereby improving their readiness and self-assurance while driving. I think that it doesn't make sense for a 15-year-old from West Virginia to be able to drive into Pennsylvania, while a 15-year-old from Pennsylvania isn't allowed to drive into West Virginia due to the difference in rules between the two states.

On top of that, I advise looking into alternate ways to complete the driving practice requirements, such as giving kids from underprivileged backgrounds access to driving simulators or paying for these underprivileged driving instructions. We can guarantee that every adolescent has an equal chance to fulfill the requirements for earning their licenses by expanding the range of possibilities accessible. In addition, I think it makes sense to reevaluate how long the learner's permit and junior license periods last to properly account for the unique development and preparedness of teenage drivers. A more equitable and efficient procedure for acquiring a senior driver's license could result from the use of a more flexible strategy that considers variables like parental certification, driving history, and completion of driver education classes.

To conclude, I encourage you to think about these recommendations as a part of continuous ways to improve Pennsylvania's teen driver laws. We can prepare young drivers for a safer and better future on the roads by creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that values safety and gives them the tools they need to succeed. I appreciate you taking the time to consider this.

Sincerely,

Jim Halpert

Dear State Representative,

In my opinion, the state laws that I agree with are West Virginia's. West Virginia allows a drivers permit at 15 unlike PA that require a minimum age of 16. Teens now are more developed than kids a couple years ago. If you are eligible to drive, teens will take responsibility when driving. In PA, I believe that it is too late to learn. West Virginia gives teens time to learn the rules of the road. There are only a few things that I would change. I would let PA teens drive 6 months earlier than what the laws are right now. This would end the debate about PA teens. If only a small change is made, a big change can happen.

I believe that PA teens should be able to apply for a learner permit earlier to give them time to learn how to drive better and safer. If the teen does not want to try for their permit early, they can wait until the time they have set today , 16.5 years old. I do agree with some laws that are set in PA though. It is very good practice to drive for 5 hours in bad weather conditions and 10 hours at night. Teens in PA need 65 hours of practice driving before they can obtain their license. However, some could argue that if a teen drives at a younger age, then they could get into trouble. For example, some teens can't be trusted so they may drive to places where they shouldn't go. This is only one thing that could possibly happen because they aren't developed or mature enough. They may be immature or not responsible enough yet.

These things are very rare though as some teens find it amazing that they can have something with value like a car. They will take care of their car if they want to have any future in driving. In West Virginia, teens aren't able to drive from 5 am-10 pm. So senator, I believe that PA teens should have the option to drive at 16 rather than the current age of 16.5 years old. This could give teens the experience that they need to drive better. They could learn the road better within a bug gap such as 6 months. The learners permit difference is big. This time gap can give teens more time to figure out what to do in situations that they don't know how to handle. They can also get help from a family member at 15. In conclusion, teens now are more developed than kids years ago. If you are eligible to drive, teens will take responsibility when driving. In PA, I believe that 16 it is too late to get a learners permit.

Sincerely,

Jason Jones

Dear Representative,

One requirement that I strongly agree with is having to drive a certain amount of time in rough weather. Many drivers, however experienced, may have issues driving in the harsh weather. Roads could be slippery due to ice or rain. This may cause new drivers to panic and they should be experienced. This is so that they know what to do or how to handle the vehicle in a dangerous situation. I would change the required age to supervise a new driver. The current age requirement to supervise a driver is 21.

However I believe it should be 18. This is because anyone who is 18 years of age will have already had a year or two of driving experience. I believe they are capable of helping a new driver. I think that the required age to get a learners permit should be lower. I would make the required age 15 and a half. This is because they will have more time to prepare and practice. They will still have to wait until 16 and a half to get a juniors license however. I would also make the age to get a seniors license only seventeen. After the learners permit they will have had six months of practice. And after six months of their junior license it will be a year of practice. A year of practice is enough to get a senior license.

I agree with most of West Virginia's laws. I agree with the earlier age requirements to get a license. However there is one West Virginia law I don't agree with. That is the required driving hours. It is only fifty in WV. On the other hand, it is 65 in PA. You are also not required to drive through bad weather in WV. These are my opinions on driving laws.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Smith

Take a break
from reading and
go see a movie



'The Fall Guy' (May 3, in theaters)



'Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes' (May 10, in theaters)



'Beetlejuice 2' (Sept. 6, in theaters)



'Joker: Folie à Deux' (Oct. 24, in theaters)



'Gladiator 2' (Nov. 22, in theaters)



'Wicked Part 1' (Nov. 27, in theaters)

