

CHS PTO Counseling Update March 6, 2024

- **March 1st was the deadline for students to make changes to their 2024-25 course requests for any reason.** Between March 2nd and May 1st, counselors can only make changes if there is room in a course. The final deadline to make schedule change requests for the entire 2024-25 school year is May 1st, 2024. Limited reasons for schedule changes after May 1st are listed in the Carmel High School Program of Studies.
- **CHS Social Workers are working to support students in a number of ways, including:**
 - Meeting with students and families to provide support
 - Connecting students and their families to community resources
 - Coordinating with the PTO to provide food on the weekends for students through the Backpack Program.
 - Organizing a mentoring program for identified students.
- **Upcoming Local College Fair! On Tuesday, March 12th CHS students have an opportunity to take advantage of the Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair to be held at the Grand Park Events Center from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** The event is sponsored by a group of high schools on Indy's Northside as a way to provide access to college information for local students. Over 100 colleges/universities will be represented at the fair! The event is FREE, and students in all grade levels are welcome to attend. College fairs are an effective way to get information about many colleges in one place and in a relatively short period of time. No matter where you are in your post-high school planning process, we encourage you to take advantage of this chance to gather information, ask questions, and make connections with college representatives. Of course, parents are encouraged to attend too! Students are encouraged to register for the fair in advance at [StriveFair.com](https://www.strivefair.com). Registered students will receive a barcode that they can bring with them to the college fair in order to share their information electronically with admission reps.
- **In mid-March the College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) will be sending a recorded presentation to current juniors and their parents called *Top 10 Things Juniors Can Do Before Senior Year*.** This presentation will focus on the things the Class of 2025 can be doing to prepare for the college application process and/or prepare for next steps after graduation. Juniors and their parents should continue to keep an eye out for more resources that we will roll out during the spring and summer to help support rising seniors in their post-high school planning.
- **Financial Aid Information & Resources**
 - **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2024-25 opened on December 30, 2023.** The deadline to complete the FAFSA in the State of Indiana is April 15th, however some colleges require that it be submitted earlier for financial aid and scholarship consideration. **NOTE:** recent Indiana legislation requires all public high school seniors to submit the FAFSA during their senior year OR complete a waiver indicating that they do not intend to do so. CHS has always encouraged all seniors to submit the FAFSA in order to maximize their financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
 - **IMPORTANT FAFSA UPDATE:** The U.S. Department of Education has announced that there will be delays in sending FAFSA information to colleges/universities. Currently, they are estimating that FAFSA data will be sent to colleges by mid-March. This will delay the communication of financial aid awards to admitted students from the colleges to which they have been admitted. **Please be sure to carefully read all communication from your colleges of interest** to fully understand how they are handling the FAFSA delay.
 - **Seniors and Senior parents are invited to attend After the FAFSA: Finalizing College Financial Aid on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS Community Room.** This presentation by our partners at INvestEd Indiana will review how to understand what comes next after submitting the FAFSA, how to read financial aid notification letters and more!

- **Scholarship Information & Resources**

- **Local and private scholarship information are coming into the Counseling Office more frequently.** Seniors can browse scholarship opportunities that they may wish to pursue in the Scholarship List located in their Naviance Student account. Scholarship information is updated frequently from November through April, and seniors are encouraged to check Naviance Student regularly. **Don't forget to "follow" us on Twitter (@chscollege411) or Instagram (@chscollegecareer) for scholarship updates!**
- **Scholarship Confirmation Forms: Seniors report your scholarship awards!**
All CHS seniors who have earned scholarships are asked to submit an electronic scholarship confirmation form WITH official documentation confirming the award. Please note that we ask seniors to submit only those confirmed college scholarships **for the school they will be attending**. Students who have received private scholarships (i.e. not from the college itself) are encouraged to report those awards on the electronic scholarship confirmation form with supporting documentation.

Submission of the electronic scholarship confirmation form and supporting documentation will allow us to celebrate seniors' scholarship award(s) in the CHS Graduation Bulletin. Please note that all financial information will remain confidential, but we will add the scholarship amounts to the grand total that will be announced at graduation.

Please use the form linked [here](#) to submit scholarship awards for inclusion in the Class of 2024 graduation bulletin.

The last day to submit scholarship confirmations for recognition in the graduation bulletin is Thursday, May 2nd. Thank you for helping us to fully recognize your Class of 2024 accomplishments!

Questions about scholarship confirmations should be directed to Melinda Stephan mstephan@ccs.k12.in.us or Leah Owens lowens@ccs.k12.in.us in the CHS Counseling Office.

- **SAVE THE DATE! CHS will host a Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair on Wednesday, April 24th from 6-8 p.m. in the Freshman Center Cafeteria.** On the evening of Wednesday, April 24th, CHS will host a Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair to help students discover and learn about a variety of educational and professional opportunities in Skilled Trades areas, many of which do not require a 4-year college degree. This event is part of our popular Majors & Careers Fair program at CHS and will highlight education/training programs related to Skilled Trades in Indiana as well as professionals/organizations representing those careers areas.
- **CHS College Advisors, Ms. Beth Henke and Mr. Pettibone, are busy meeting with students and families who want assistance with the college search and career exploration process.** Collectively, we have met with over 1,100 students/parents in the CCRC since the school year started! Students can request an appointment by completing an online request in PowerSchool. Students can note that parents wish to join these appointments when completing the request form.
- **Reminder: Be sure to join the Counseling Department Canvas course!** All CHS students have been invited to join the Counseling Department Canvas course, and once students accept the invitation, parents can join as observers. The Canvas course includes resources and information aimed at supporting our students' academic, social-emotional, and career development needs.
- **Don't forget to use the following resources to learn more about the services and resources offered by the Counseling Department and the College & Career Resource Center (CCRC):**
 - Visit the Counseling Department Canvas Course to access a variety of resources
 - Follow the CHS Counseling Department on Twitter @counselingatchs and the Freshman Center Counseling office on Instagram @fc.counseling.chs
 - Follow the CCRC on Twitter @CHSCollege411 or Follow the CCRC on Instagram @chscollegecareer