

Hello,

My name is Krista Smith and I am elated to be your child's school counselor! I would like to take time to introduce myself and allow you to become familiar with who I am and what I am passionate about.

I grew up in a small, Illinois town northeast of Carbondale. My passion to help others and change the world has never escaped me, and it is in high school that my interest in school counseling began. After high school, I went to Wabash Valley Junior College for a year and earned an Associate in Science degree, then transferred to Southern Illinois University, Carbondale to study Elementary Education. I completed my Bachelor of Science degree in two and a half years. At that time I applied for the Teaching Fellowship at SIUC. I was placed to co-teach literature at Unity Point School and then, in my second year, I worked with the counselor at Carbondale Middle School.

While in the Fellowship Program I worked towards my Master of Science in Education degree in Educational Psychology, graduating Summa Cum Laude. One of my most noteworthy trainings included my internship, here, at Carbondale Community High School with Mr. Jamie Hogue. I learned a lot about CCHS, its culture, and students. I spent six years in Carbondale, and I consider it home away from home.

Just before graduating I was offered a school counseling position at Sullivan High School in central Illinois. For the last three years I have served as their counselor. While there, I functioned as the one and only counselor; thus, gaining a surplus of experience. I worked with freshman through seniors. I assisted with academic support, college & career guidance, and served as a liaison between outside agencies and the school to provide as much support as possible for the student body. I organized and orchestrated Dual Credit, PSAT, SAT, AP, Freshman Academy, Freshman Orientation, Financial Aid Night, scholarships, Awards Night, scheduling, setting up college, military, and career visitors, in addition to meeting students' personal, social, and emotional needs everyday. I feel the experience I gained at Sullivan has prepared me very well to help the students at CCHS.

I have been eager to get back to CCHS since my internship. The supportive faculty, the promise of a highly recognized education, and most importantly the engaged and exceptional student body is what most draws me to CCHS. It is an absolute honor to be a part of this team and community. I look forward to getting to know your student and helping him or her to grow academically and personally. It is a goal of mine to help him or her find ways to achieve goals and attain personal successes while attending CCHS. Speaking of goals, I will propose two goals to every freshman this year and would like for you to be aware of these goals: (1) To graduate high school; and (2) to get involved in at least one extracurricular activity his or her freshman year; be it a club, organization, or sport. I believe getting involved at school will help students acclimate to CCHS better, gain interpersonal skills that will help them later in life, and will produce engagement and accountability.

You know your student best, and I invite you to call or email me with any questions or concerns you have throughout your child's high school experience. I look forward to working with you and witnessing your student grow and excel over the next four years! You can find my contact information below. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Krista Smith
CCHS Counselor
Class of 2021
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