

CHS PTO Counseling Update March 7, 2025

Scheduling

- **March 1st was the deadline for students to make changes to their 2025-26 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 2025-26 school year is May 1st. Limited reasons for schedule changes after May 1st are listed in the Carmel High School Program of Studies.
- **Summer School Through Indiana Online:** Students interested in recovering high school credits or replacing a lower course grade over the summer, please review the summer school options via Indiana Online below. Students will also need to discuss summer school plans with their counselor prior to registering on the Indiana Online website.

How to Register: Go to www.Indianaonline.org and click on the SUMMER session link.

Registration Window: 01/21/25 through 05/28/25 (After student registers, an email is sent to the student's CHS counselor who must approve the enrollment before it is finalized.)

Costs for the course: None (some advanced courses may require student to purchase their book, CHS will not provide textbook rental for IOA summer courses)

Course Dates: 06/2/25 through 07/13/25

How does IOA work? Visit Indiana Online website or call 317-759-5559

CHS Students can enroll in an INDIANA ONLINE summer course for the following:

- **Grade Retake:** Any course a student has earned a grade of C+ or lower. This would follow the CHS grade retake policy.
- **Credit Recovery:** Any course the student has failed and needs to recover the credit.
- **Math:** Courses to get back on sequence with their math graduation requirements
- **IB Diploma Students:** Students should discuss this option with their counselor.
- Students can enroll in a maximum of two summer classes

Our CHS Social Workers 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.

CHS Mental Wellness Week

Mental Wellness Week is March 17th-March 21st. The theme for the week is "Wellness Academy". We are modeling the week to follow the Wellness Wheel model, which represents various dimensions of wellness. For this initiative, we've selected five key dimensions to focus on: Physical, Social, Emotional, Academic, and Community, that target skill development that is relevant to high school students.

Each day will feature a wellness theme, a fun dress-up opportunity, and an activity that aligns with the theme.

FAFSA/Financial Aid Information

- **State law requires all high school seniors to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or opt out of submitting it.** 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:** CHS has always encouraged all seniors to submit the FAFSA in order to maximize their financial aid and scholarship opportunities. However, seniors/families wishing to opt out of completing the FAFSA can submit the [State waiver form](#) to Melinda Stephan mstephan@ccs.k12.in.us or Wendy Pemberton wpember1@ccs.k12.in.us.
- **Seniors and Senior parents are invited to attend After the FAFSA: Finalizing College Financial Aid on Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS Community Room.** This presentation by our partners at INvestEd Indiana will review what comes next after submitting the FAFSA, how to read financial aid notification letters and more!

Scholarship Information

- **Local and private scholarship information continues to come into our office!** 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 the Naviance Student Scholarship List regularly. Students should keep an eye on their Canvas announcements and email for local 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 (electronically). 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 2025 graduation bulletin.

The last day to submit scholarship confirmations for recognition by Graduation is Monday, May 5, 2025. Submissions will be accepted until June 2nd for inclusion in the online scholarship list. Thank you for helping us to fully recognize your Class of 2025 accomplishments!

College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) Information

- **Upcoming Local College Fair! On Tuesday, March 11th 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 North Side 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 students are in their post-high school planning process, we encourage them 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. 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.
- CHS will host a **STEM Majors & Careers Fair on Thursday, March 20th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Freshman Center Cafeteria**. This event, part of the College & Career Resource Center's programming, will feature over 40 colleges and organizations, showcasing STEM career paths and educational opportunities in Indiana and surrounding areas. During the fair, students and parents will have the chance to explore various STEM fields and educational programs, with breakout sessions available for those interested in learning more. Session details and a list of colleges/organizations attending will be shared ahead of the event. We hope to see you there!
- **Future Programming...Save the Date!**
 - **Greater Northside Indianapolis College Fair, March 11th**, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Grand Park Events Center
 - **STEM Majors & Careers Fair on Thursday, March 20th**, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Freshman Center Cafeteria.
 - **After the FAFSA: Finalizing College Financial Aid on Tuesday, March 25th** at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS Community Room.
 - **Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair, April 15th**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Zionsville Community High School.
- **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 800 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.
- **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 Instagram @carmelhs counseling and the Freshman Center
 - Counseling office on Instagram @fc.counseling.chs
 - Follow the CCRC on Instagram @chscollegcareer