

CHS PTO Counseling Update February 7, 2025

Scheduling Information for 2025-26

In November/December, counselors held individual advising meetings with 9th and 10th grade students to schedule courses for the 2025-26 academic year. Counselors are now in the process of scheduling current juniors and current 8th grade students. Students have until March 1st to adjust their course requests for any reason. Between March 2nd and May 1st, requests to change course requests are dependent upon space and availability. Requests made after May 1st are subject to our schedule change request policy posted in the Program of Studies.

Helpful Resources for Students and Parents to Review:

- **CANVAS:** The Scheduling module in the Counseling Canvas course will walk students through all the information needed to select their courses and prepare for their advising meeting. *All CHS students have been invited to join the Counseling Canvas course, and parents may view it as observers.*
- **Program of Studies:** The Carmel High School Program of Studies provides course descriptions for all CHS Departments. This is a great place to start to understand all of the course options available to CHS students. The Program of Studies for the upcoming year is posted in the CHS Counseling Canvas course and on the CHS website under Academics.
- **Program information:** Learn about the wide variety of programs available at CHS by reviewing our “Academic Programming: Academic Programs & Grad Pathways” resource. This resource is posted in the Counseling Canvas course within “Academics” and includes links to topics such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Career & Technical Education (CTE) options, AVID, Indiana College Core (ICC) and more.

Enrollment for Private School Students

Enrollment for 8th grade private school students will be on February 19 & 20, 2025. Private schools will be providing CHS with contact information for students who want to enroll. The Counseling office will reach out with additional information to private school parents in January 2025.

CHS Social Workers are working to support students in a number of ways, including:

- Meeting with students and families to provide support
- Collaborating with administration/counselors/teachers 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.

CHS Social Workers are excited to announce that the week of March 17th will be our schoolwide Mental Wellness Week. The theme of the week is “Wellness Academy”. We will have dress up days, handouts and activities throughout the week revolving around our theme. Keep an eye out, on Instagram, for more information about how students can participate in Mental Wellness Week activities! @carmelhs counseling, @fc.counseling.chs, and @carmelhighschoolofficial

SAT Administration on March 4th

All CHS Juniors will take the SAT on March 4th as part of the State of Indiana's statewide testing accountability law. A message with details for the day and answers to commonly asked questions about the March SAT will be sent to all juniors and their parents in the coming week. Students in grades 9, 10, and 12 will have an E-Learning Day on March 4th.

College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) Information

- **FAFSA/Financial Aid Information**

State law requires all high school seniors to submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or opt out**. 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 complete the FAFSA waiver rather than submit it, can request a waiver form from Melinda Stephan mstephan@ccs.k12.in.us or Wendy Pemberton wpember1@ccs.k12.in.us.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- **Families can get help with the FAFSA at College Goal Sunday on Sunday, February 23rd from 2-4 p.m.** This is a statewide FAFSA completion event held at numerous sites throughout the state, where financial aid experts will be present to assist families with completing the FAFSA. Learn more at www.collegegoalsunday.org
- Seniors can get advice about next steps in the financial aid process at our **After the FAFSA: Finalizing Financial Aid program on March 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.**

- **Scholarship Information**

Local and private scholarship information has come into our office more frequently throughout the last several weeks. 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.

- **Specifically, the Carmel Education Foundation (CEF) offers 80+ local scholarships to CHS students.** The CEF scholarship application is open, and the deadline to submit the CEF application is March 3rd. More information can be found at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/scholarships/application-process>
- 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!

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.

- **Future Programming...Save the Date!**
 - **Freshman/Sophomore College & Career Planning Night, February 18th**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. starts in the CHS Auditorium.
 - **STEM Majors & Careers Fair, March 20th**, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Freshman Cafeteria
 - **Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair, April 15th**, 6:00-8:00 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 700 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 [@chscollegecareer](#)