

**SENIOR PARENT
INFORMATION NIGHT**



CLASS OF 2026

CHRISTOPHER HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION



Jeremy Dirks
PRINCIPAL



Mark Pierce
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Kay Guenther
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CHS ACADEMIC COORDINATORS



Students with last names beginning
with: A - D

Mrs. Kuwada

Office Line: 669-205-5322

Marah.Kuwada@gilroyunified.org



Students with last names beginning
with: Kj - Q

Mrs. Cid-Castro

Office Line: 669-205-5323

Rosie.Cid-Castro@gilroyunified.org



Students with last names beginning
with: E - Ki

Ms. Garibay

Office Line: (669) 205-5320

Petra.Garibay@gilroyunified.org



Students with last names beginning
with: R - Z

Mrs. Maiorino

Office Line: (669) 205-5321

Donya.Maiorino@gilroyunified.org

ACTIVITIES & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS



Mrs. Yoder-Schrock
Activities Director
Community Service Coordinator
gretchen.yoder-schrock@gilroyunified.org



Mr. Dequin
Athletic Director
ryan.dequin@gilroyunified.org

AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Community Service Graduation Requirement- 80 hours
- Important Senior Dates
- Scholarship Process and Financial Aid
- Review of Senior Activities/Graduation Expenses
- Senior Portraits/ Yearbook Senior Tributes

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK THE CHS WEBSITE



[CHS.GILROYUNIFIED.ORG](https://chs.gilroyunified.org)



**(SENIOR INFORMATION AND SCHOLARSHIP INFO
ARE LOCATED UNDER “STUDENT LIFE” TAB)**

EXPENSES CLASS OF 2026

- **GRADUATION PRODUCTS:** Our vendor is Herff Jones. Here you may purchase graduation Cap, Gown, Tassel, and Class Ring.



CAP, GOWN, TASSEL

SCAN!



THIS IS THE ONLY REQUIRED COST FOR GRADUATION

- **YEARBOOK:** Order Online

Gown & Announcements

SENIOR PORTRAITS AND YEARBOOK TRIBUTES

Senior Portrait Deadline Senior Portraits for the yearbook must be taken by **Prestige Portraits**. Information has been sent via e-mail to families and information was also mailed home. Yearbook only sittings are done at no charge, students may choose between a tuxedo or drape. Any other pictures will require a sitting fee that is applied as a deposit for their portrait package. **All Senior Portraits must be completed and selected by Friday October 17th, 2025 in order to appear in the yearbook!**

Senior Tribute Yearbook pages are due to Herff Jones by **November 1st 2025** - to purchase a tribute ad go to **Herff Jones** link on main CHS webpage.

Yearbooks are on sale for \$75 with coupon code but prices are going up very soon! **WELCOMEBACK25**

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOUR REQUIREMENTS

Updated August, 2025

	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028	CLASS OF 2029
TO ATTEND HOMECOMING DANCE AND PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS	60	40	20	0
TO ATTEND PROM	60	40	20	0
TOTAL REQUIRED THIS YEAR	80	60	40	20
BY MAY 1st (of your Graduation Year) TOTAL REQUIRED	80			

STAY ON TRACK: AIM FOR **5** HOURS EACH QUARTER

- 80 Hours total by May 1st 2026
- Turn in hours to ASB office
- Must be turned in within 30 days of service being done.

<https://chs.gilroyunified.org/student-life/community-service>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS:

- Nov 8th - Senior Dinner Dance
- April TBA - Prom 2026!
- May 21st - #IDECIDED EVENT
(Lunchtime)
- June 5th - Grad Nite - Senior Trip to
Magic Mtn.
- June 12th- Graduation Ceremony!



GRADUATION STATUS

Credits:

- A minimum of 160 credits completed currently
- 220 credits total in the required subjects

PLUS

- 80 Hours of community service by May 1st 2026



EXPENSES YOU MAY EXPECT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES:

- \$70 per application
- *Up to four application fee waivers available to those who qualify*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

- \$80 per application
- *Up to four application fee waivers available to those who qualify*

PRIVATE & OUT-OF STATE UNIVERSITIES:

- Varies, check college websites
- CSS Financial Aid Profile (used for Private Schools): \$25 - fee waivers available

DEPOSIT FEES: Be prepared to pay a deposit to the University after your student is accepted and he/she sends his/her letter of intent to enroll.



SENIOR DATES TO REMEMBER



PARENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT ON PARENT SQUARE!

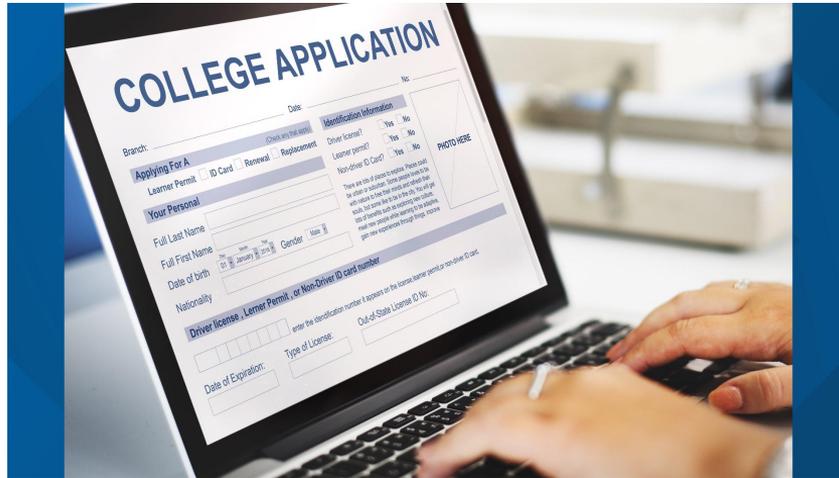
- **OCTOBER 1ST 2025:** Can begin to submit UC and CSU applications- Make sure to ask your AC to review your application before you submit!! Launch from CaliforniaColleges.edu
- **OCTOBER 8TH 2025:** Cal SOAP sponsored College Fair at GHS 6-8PM
- **OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025:** College Application Workshops (UC, CSU, Private, Out of State and Community Colleges) every Monday beginning October 6th during lunch in **Student Services**
- **OCTOBER 1ST 2025:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Application becomes available online. Parents will use 2024 tax information! Plan on Attending a **Cash for College** Webinar or in-person workshop at CHS. To access help in completing your student's FAFSA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information

SENIOR DATES TO REMEMBER

- DECEMBER 1ST, 2025: CSU APPLICATION DEADLINE!
- DECEMBER 1ST, 2025: UC APPLICATION DEADLINE!
- **MARCH 2, 2026**: Priority deadline to submit FAFSA Application for **2026-2027 school year**
- **MARCH 6, 2026**: GUSD Common Scholarship Applications due by midnight. The submission process will be presented to students in January. - *no exceptions to this deadline! Submit early to avoid missing out!* **GUSD Scholarship Resource** www.GoingMerry.com
- **JANUARY 2026-MAY 2026**: Scholarship Applications (deadlines vary) check CHS website on a regular basis. Local scholarships advertised on www.GoingMerry.com by January 5th 2026.
- **MAY 20TH 2026 6:00PM**: Senior Awards Night
**Invitations will be sent to those seniors who will be recognized at this event.
- **MAY 21ST, 2026**- 5th annual #IDECIDED Senior Celebration **in the quad at lunchtime!** Seniors wear their College T-Shirts /Gear or anything that reps their future career.

COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

- Every Monday
- October and November
- Lunch Time in Student Services



College Application Workshop

CSU, UC, Private, Out of State and Community College



CHS Academic Coordinators are here to help

DATES AND TIMES

Every Monday
October and November
Student Services
12:55 pm to 1:25 pm
Lunch Time

COLLEGE 2025 FAIR



Gilroy High

October 8, 2025

6pm - 8pm

Gilroy High School:
750 W 10th St, Gilroy,
CA 95020



Hollister High

October 22, 2025

5pm - 7pm

Hollister High School:
1220 Monterey St,
Hollister, CA 95023



♦ Don't Miss Out!
Meet reps from up to
50 colleges at our
College Fair - your
future starts here!
Explore, Ask, Apply!

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



SCHOLARSHIPS FALL INTO FOUR CATEGORIES

1. Local scholarships that use a GUSD Common Application available on www.GoingMerry.com by January 5th, 2026
2. General scholarships that use their own application information and criteria but do not use the common application
3. College or university scholarships (often awarded through FAFSA)
4. National Scholarships found on websites.

SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED...



COMMON APPLICATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- Students are able to apply to a number of different scholarships using one, “common application.”
- The application is due on Friday March 6, 2026 via [GoingMerry.com](https://www.GoingMerry.com)

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- These scholarships will have various deadlines and criteria
- Information is constantly updated as we receive new information
- Check the CHS site regularly!

SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED...



COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Colleges and Universities will use the information students provide within their admissions application to be considered for scholarships. Do your best in representing yourself on the application. Once a student is accepted to a particular school he/she should research scholarships that the school may offer.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

National scholarships are extremely competitive. There are a few websites that we recommend for students who want to pursue these scholarships. The websites are www.fastweb.com, www.tuitionfundingsources.com, www.collegescholarships.org, GoingMerry.com

FINANCIAL AID



Grants, loans, and work study programs are accessed by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CA Dream Act Application. The website is www.fafsa.ed.gov and the window for completing this application is October 1st-March 2nd. Tax information from 2024 year is required. **AB 469 The State of California requires seniors to complete the FAFSA. Parents/Students can opt out using a form.**

***Scholarship and financial aid information should be readily available **FREE OF CHARGE.** Some websites may require you to register and pay fees. Please do not do this. We are certain you will be able to access the same information for free on another site.



- **Financial Aid Parent Information Night: Thursday Sept 18th, 6-7PM CHS Library**
- **Cash 4 College Workshop (tentative) October 29th 2025- get the FAFSA submitted!**



Complete the FAFSA® Form

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

New to the FAFSA® Process?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

[Start Here](#)

Returning User?

Correct info | Add a school

View your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)

[Log In](#)

FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/>

You and your Student
are completing the
FAFSA for the
2026-27 SCHOOL
YEAR!

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT Apply by March 2

The California Dream Act Application allows students interested in attending eligible California Colleges, Universities and Career Education Programs to apply for state financial aid. This application is unrelated to the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

[Check out our California Dream Act information & resources.](#)

Announcements:



- To apply for a Cal Grant submit a California Dream Act Application by **March 2**.

NEW to the CA Dream Act? First Time User?

- Start a NEW application
- Do not submit multiple applications

Get started!

[Start](#)

Returning User to CA Dream Act?

- Renew your application
- Submit a saved application
- Make a correction or add a school to your application

[Forgot User ID or Reset Password](#)

[Login](#)

[Submit Parent Signature](#)

California Dream Act

<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

SEAL OF BI-LITERACY

What is it?

A recognition by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for graduating high school students who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.



California Department of
EDUCATION



• ENGLISH LEARNER SUPPORT DIVISION •

THE CALIFORNIA STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY

What is the State Seal of Biliteracy?
The State Seal of Biliteracy is a recognition by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for graduating high school students who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. The State Seal of Biliteracy is marked by a gold seal affixed to the diploma or transcript.

Where can I find more information about the State Seal of Biliteracy?
More information about the State Seal of Biliteracy is available on the California Department of Education State Seal of Biliteracy web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp> or scan the QR code at the bottom of this poster.

 Follow us on Twitter: @MultilingualCA

What are the requirements for earning the California State Seal of Biliteracy?

English proficiency, demonstrated by: + **Second-language proficiency, demonstrated by:** = 

English proficiency options:

-  and : Completing all English language arts (ELA) graduation requirements with a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) or above.
- : Passing the ELA California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress at the "standard met" level or above.

Second-language proficiency options (choose one):

- AP** : Passing an Advanced Placement (AP) exam with a three or above.
- Coursework**  and : Completing a four-year high school course of study in the language with a 3.0 GPA or above. Demonstrating oral proficiency in the language.
- IB** : Passing an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam with a four or above.
- SAT II** : Passing an SAT II foreign language exam with a 600 or above.

If the student is currently designated as an English learner, also:

- : Demonstrating English proficiency on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) and meeting all other requirements.

Or passing a locally approved assessment that meets the rigor of an AP exam and tests all modalities of communication in the language.

Scan for more information:



TRANSCRIPT REQUEST PROCESS



OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

- Seniors can request transcripts by completing the appropriate form.
- [CHS Transcript Request Form](#)
- FINAL SENIOR YEAR TRANSCRIPTS (June 2026) can be sent to the college of attendance free of charge through Parchment.com. Seniors will be instructed to set up an account later this year.



CLASS OF

2026