

# COUNSELING *Corner*

ARGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL | NOVEMBER 2025

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## Hip Hip Hooray for College Week


The Counseling Department continued its annual tradition of hosting College Week beginning October 27th so that all the fun and games coincided with seniors submitting applications to continue their education at the next level in the 2026/27 academic year.

Here's what was planned:

- On Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, seniors earned a cookie and/or a shirt by either submitting a postsecondary application or showing proof that they had already applied. This went down in the College Career Center.
- On Tuesday and Thursday, completing or showing proof of FAFSA submission earned prizes, same location as above.
- In regard to prizes for the two bullet points above, rumor has it that prom tickets and/or AP exam fee waivers might be on the table, stay tuned.
- Gone are the days of the VCR, but college tours will be virtually displayed on plasma screens in the College Career Center and elsewhere.
- There were scavenger hunts and trivia contests related to colleges; thinking caps were required for this.
- Participating teachers displayed signs outside of their classrooms which outlined their collegiate backgrounds, and there were some doors decorated with this theme as well.
- On Thursday there was an "Ask a Senior" seminar where younger students were able

to hear from current seniors about what to expect when they go through the college search and application process. Sign up links should be emailed soon.

- Faculty and staff have traditionally worn college and postsecondary swag like tshirts on Wednesdays, so we invited fashion conscious students to do the same and wear, for example, a University of Illinois hoodie. If nothing else, it was a week of school activities that did not include wearing pajamas to school.

So there it is, hoping all had fun with College Week, it's a fall phenomenon we all love. 



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## The Math and Science Departments Certainly Are Resourceful

Are you feeling vexed by having to find  $x$ ? Is photosynthesis not synthesizing in your brain easily and a test is imminent? Fear not, under the tutelage of Division Chair Mr. Kantzevelos and his two Assistant Division Chairs who we'll hear from below, the Math and Science Departments have free tutoring available to students. Read below for details:

*What is Math Resource and what services are provided?*

Ms. Smith: Math Resource is a classroom where a math teacher is available to help students with homework, studying, and ACT preparation problems. It's also a space where students can make up missed assessments like quizzes and/or tests or if they simply need a quiet place to complete math homework even if they don't need direct help from a teacher.

*Where is Math Resource located?*

Ms. Smith: Math Resource is in Room 343 and is open Monday through Thursday from 3:00 until 4:00 PM.

*How can students access Math Resource?*

Ms. Smith: Math Resource is a drop-in service, so students can stop by without a pass or appointment. Please arrive before 3:05, as no one is allowed to enter after that time.

*What is Science Resource and what services are provided?*

Mr. Daugherty: In Science Resource, students can get help with anything done in science classes, including reviewing lecture material, finishing labs, and taking missed quizzes and tests.

*Where is Science Resource located?*

Mr. Daugherty: It takes place in Room 265 on Tuesdays and Thursdays during all lunch periods. The other option is in Room 257, Monday through Thursday from 3:00 until 4:00 PM.

*How can students access Science Resource?*

All they need to do is drop by. It helps to inform their teacher first, but it's not necessary. 

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## Oh To Be in the TLC

If there is a theme of this issue of Counseling Corner, it's this: there is plenty of help that is available to Argo students free of charge when they experience bumps in the road of their academic journeys. A prime feature of this would have to be The Learning Center, or TLC.

Housed in the Pass Gate Annex (PGA) since its ribbon cutting ceremony, the TLC is a space within Argo that is dedicated to helping students in numerous ways. Open daily from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM (and hosting Argo After Hours until 4:30), there is a Writing Center where students can receive assistance and have their writing proofread in advance of turning it in for a grade. Help is available in all subject areas and there is heavy traffic there during lunch periods comprised of students receiving tutoring, making up missed tests, and some who just like the quiet ambience that is conducive to getting work done instead of sitting in the cafeteria.

Students can obtain a pass from a teacher or counselor to attend the TLC and they have fifteen minutes to pick up their lunch and take it through multiple corridors and up to the TLC. With the semester about to enter its last weeks and final exams on the horizon, a visit up there is probably good idea for many if not most of our students. As veteran math teacher Mr. Stern says, "It's [TLC] a nice, relaxing place to learn or get help."

Let's hear more from Dr. Jervis & our new TLC staff:

The TLC is available for students to utilize throughout the day for retakes, essay assistance, academic support, or a quiet space to study. Students are welcome to attend during their lunch period, and tables are designated for specific subjects. The testing center allows students to retake and make up exams that they missed or would like to retake.

There are also opportunities for NHS students to become peer mentors. Their roles and responsibilities include helping struggling students, assisting with attendance, and sending out passes.

The TLC has a new Instructional Aide:

"Hello Argonaut Community! My name is Noelia Rivera and, as an alumna from the Class of 2019, I am absolutely thrilled to return to Argo as an Instructional Aide at the Teaching and Learning Center. After my time at Argo, I studied at Illinois State University before ultimately graduating from University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor's degree in Teaching of Education and a minor in Communications. Through my teaching experiences, it is my belief that cultivating learning environments rooted in empathy enables students to take ownership of their learning. My goal is to support and uplift each learner so that they are reminded that they are valued regardless of their academic performance. Being back at Argo feels like coming home, so I am deeply grateful to give back to the community that nurtured my interest in education. I look forward to contributing to this community, and I look forward to seeing you all again. Go Argonauts!"

## In the Corner

I won't even pretend, this newsletter is my side hustle down here in the Counseling Department, so it is kind of strange to put myself into a corner. But there is a job to do, so I'll put my ego aside and do it as objectively as possible (wink wink).

**CC:** What made you want to go into school counseling?

**CJ:** The first step on my journey was teaching elementary school from 1995–98. I went back to graduate school and starting counseling in 2001 and eventually landed at Argo in 2007. I've learned a lot from students over the years and I've met people and seen things that I wouldn't have in other jobs.

**CC:** What are your goals for the 2025/26 school year?

**CJ:** One goal would be not to get too frustrated with technology that doesn't always come to me so easily (my high school graduation present was a typewriter if you need context). I also want to keep communication open with students, parents, teachers, and other staff members, whether it's about serious topics like academic progress or social emotional issues, or fun things, such as selling feints in boxing.

**CC:** What do you like to do in your free time outside of work?

**CJ:** I like to hit pads at the gym even though I have cut back on muay Thai sparring as younger fighters became just too much to handle. Also, spending time with Ms. Johnson, twenty-one years into marriage and it never gets old, and taking care of our dog and cats is always a priority. Travelling when we can is lots of fun too, good trips to Colorado and Vermont last summer are highlights.

**CC:** What are some of your favorite movies and TV shows?



*The man behind this very newsletter, Mr. Johnson.*

**CJ:** For movies, I can cite certain directors like Stanley Kubrick, Ari Aster, and Martin Scorsese. Other favorites would have to include *Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood*, *Children of Men*, *Blade Runner*, *Solaris*, and many others. As for television, my favorite show would have to be *Succession*, but the show I've watched most is *Beverly Hills 90210*, so please don't accuse me of being pretentious.

**CC:** What type of music do you listen to on the work commute?

**CJ:** I listen to all types of music. That means lots of 90s jungle/drum and bass mixes, as well as artists that I've been into lately like Massive Attack, My Bloody Valentine, Three 6 Mafia, Bad Brains, the Smiths, Dizzee Rascal, Aphex Twin, Daft Punk, and more. My wife introduced me to a lot of Latin music and I'd say cumbia is my favorite genre in that field. Since we're in the corner, go check out the Miles Davis album called *On the Corner*, it will blow your mind. 🎶