

August 11, 2025

Dear Charlotte Catholic Parents, Students, and Families:

On behalf of the Charlotte Catholic Counseling Department, welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! We are excited to begin another year of partnering with our students and families to support academic growth, post-secondary planning, and personal well-being. At Charlotte Catholic, every student meets individually with their counselor at least twice per year, and more often as needed. Students are encouraged to reach out at any time for counseling on academics, college and career planning, or personal and social-emotional concerns. Our comprehensive four-year college counseling program is designed to walk alongside students through each stage of high school and the college admission process.

The Counseling Department is delighted to welcome back Kara (Rauch) Fisher, who served as a counselor at CCHS from 2017–2021 before moving to New York City and California. In New York City, Mrs. Fisher was the Director of College Counseling at Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, a private college-prep Catholic school. In California, she worked as a School Counselor at Army and Navy Academy, a military boarding school for boys. Most recently, she worked at East Mecklenburg High School as a School Counselor. Kara’s experience and knowledge will be a tremendous asset to our students and our team.

With the addition of new staff and a few role changes, our counselor alphabet assignments have been updated to best meet the needs of our students and families. We understand that changing counselors can be an adjustment, and our team will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition for every student. While all counselors remain available to support any student as needed, we encourage families and students to begin building a connection with their newly assigned counselor. Establishing this relationship early will ensure consistent communication and personalized support throughout the school year.

Mrs. Sarah Sovchen will continue the role of Director of Counseling and will work closely with families who are new to Charlotte Catholic while also leading the department in this expanded capacity. All new 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students will be assigned to Mrs. Sovchen for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Bill Keese will continue to serve all students as our Mental Health Intervention Counselor. Students in 9th-12th grades will be assigned by last name:

A-De: Mrs. Heather Nobary

Di-Ho: Mrs. Christine Parks

Hu-Mi: Mrs. Kara Fisher

Mo-She: Mr. Sandy Needham

Shi-Z: Mrs. Melody Clementi

These changes allow us to provide even more individualized support, ensuring every student feels known, supported, and encouraged throughout the year.

Counselors will offer grade-level presentations throughout the year, which are an excellent opportunity for parents to connect with our counseling team and learn more about our Catholic school community, academic policies, and important milestones. These presentations cover a range of topics from orientation to college selection and transition, providing valuable information at every stage of your student’s

journey. To keep families and students aligned, grade-level presentations are introduced to students and parents on the same day whenever possible.

Please mark your calendars with the dates below and discuss them with your students. Please note that dates and programs are subject to change, and any updates will be communicated promptly. We will announce programs in **The Catholic Daily** and encourage you and your student to read it every day.

2025-2026 Counseling Programs and Important Dates

Freshman Student Orientation: August 18, 2025, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Fine Arts Center (Freshmen students) Incoming freshmen will learn about being a part of the CCHS community and get acclimated to CCHS before the first day of school. Students will receive their computer, walk through their schedule, and meet their teachers.

New Student Orientation for grades 10-12: August 18, 2025, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Media Center (New to CCHS 10, 11, and 12 grade students and parents) New upperclassmen families will learn about being a part of the CCHS community and get acclimated to CCHS before the first day of school. Students will receive their computer and walk through their schedule. *Parents and students should attend.*

New Family Social (optional event): August 18, 2025, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Cafeteria (New to CCHS 10, 11, and 12 grade students and parents) New upperclassmen families are welcome to stay after orientation for a casual gathering with Student Ambassadors, Administration, Counselors, and many other important CCHS staff members.

Course Drop/add deadline: August 25, 2025, 3:05 PM. This is the last day for students to drop/add elective classes. Students must communicate with their assigned counselor to discuss any elective changes before this deadline.

Senior College Application & Admissions Presentation: August 25, 2025, Classrooms (Senior students) Counselors present our college application process to all seniors.

Senior Parent College Application & Admissions Presentation: August 25, 2025, 6:00 PM, Fine Arts Center (Senior parents) Counselors review our college application process and pertinent senior-specific information to senior parents.

College Application Boot Camp: September 7th, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM, September 21st, 2:00 PM- 6:00 PM, and September 28 2:00 PM- 6:00 PM, Media Center (Seniors) Pre-registration is required. A Google form is emailed to seniors in early August. Counselors are available to assist students as they complete college applications. A generous donor provides an annual grant to provide this invaluable program.

Freshmen Parent Program: August 27, 2025, 8:00 AM, Fine Arts Center (Freshmen parents) Counselors present freshmen-specific information and answer parent questions at this informal meeting.

Financial Aid Night: September 24, 2025, 6:00 PM, Fine Arts Center (Junior & Senior parents) The Counseling Department hosts a college financial aid expert to speak about FAFSA and how to apply for financial aid and scholarships.

College Admissions Panel: October 1, 2025, 6:00 PM, Fine Arts Center (10-12th parents and students) The Counseling Department hosts College Admission Representatives from a variety of universities who give an overview of college admissions from their schools to help parents and students see similarities and differences in admissions processes. *This is an invaluable opportunity to hear about college application best practices directly from admissions directors!*

PSAT/NMSQT: October 15, 2025, 9-11th graders take the PSAT at Charlotte Catholic during the regular school day. The PSAT is now digital. Find more information [here](#).

Junior College Application and Admissions Presentation: November 19, 2025, Classrooms (Junior students) Counselors present essential information on researching colleges and the application process.

Junior Parent Application and Admissions Presentation: November 19, 2025, 6:00 PM, Fine Arts Center (Junior parents) Counselors present a comprehensive overview of important information on researching colleges and the application process.

Annual Suicide Prevention Program: Date TBD, Fine Arts Center (Freshmen students) This program is provided for all freshmen enrolled in first or second-semester health classes. Mrs. Nikki Warren, 3rd grade teacher at St. Gabriel Catholic School and Charlotte Catholic alumna, will be our presenter. This important program helps students recognize warning signs and understand how to seek help. Parents will receive an email with specific dates and details as the presentation approaches.

Freshmen Classroom Program: January 12, 2026, Classrooms (Freshmen students) Counselors will guide freshmen on how to access and use SCOIR, our web-based college and career planning tool.

Sophomore Classroom Program: January 26, 2026, Classrooms (Sophomore students) Counselors provide grade-level guidance and introduce college counseling programs to sophomore classes.

Sophomore Parent Program: January 26, 2026, 8:00 AM, Fine Arts Center (Sophomore parents) Counselors will share details about sophomore programming and answer parent questions in this informal session.

2026-27 Course Registration: TBD, Classrooms (All students) All students meet individually with counselors to plan for the 2026-2027 academic year and discuss course selections.

Junior College Essay Workshop: TBD, Media Center (Junior students) The Counseling Department will sponsor a two-day workshop to help juniors prepare and begin writing their college application essays and the start of the application process.

Academy Day: TBD, Fine Arts Center (Open to community) Representatives from United States Military Academies present Academy admission processes.

Senior College Transition Program: April 22, 2026, 6:00 PM, Fine Arts Center (Senior students and parents) Counselors will host an evening program for seniors and parents focused on the transition to college, including practical advice on academic, social, and emotional changes students may face in their first year. This program features Dr. Melinda Harper, founder of the Transition 2 University (T2U) Program. *Both students and parents are encouraged to attend this informative and well-regarded session.*

SAT at CCHS: CCHS students are encouraged to register at collegeboard.org to take the SAT onsite at CCHS on the following dates. *Testing at CCHS helps reduce potential technological issues with school-issued devices.*

August 23, 2025

December 6, 2025

September 13, 2025

March 14, 2026

October 4, 2025

May 2, 2026

November 8, 2025

ACT: The ACT is offered at local public schools. Students register at ACTStudent.org to select a test date and location.

AP Exams: (Juniors and Senior students) Students in AP classes will take AP exams May 4–8 and May 11–15, 2026. AP Exam fees are due in August.

We look forward to a wonderful school year!

Thank you,

Sarah Sovchen, Director of Counseling – SESovchen@charlottecatholic.org

Heather Nobary (A-De) – HRNobary@charlottecatholic.org

Christine Parks (Di-Ho) – CLParks@charlottecatholic.org

Kara Fisher (Hu-Mi) – KRFisher@charlottecatholic.org

Sandy Needham (Mo-She) – SMNeedham@charlottecatholic.org

Melody Clementi (Shi-Z) – MEClementi@charlottecatholic.org

Bill Keese, Mental Health Counselor – WSKeese@charlottecatholic.org

Leslie Tesch, Counseling Administrative Assistant – LDTesch@charlottecatholic.org