

CHS PTO Counseling Update February 6, 2026

Scheduling Information for 2026-27

In November/December, counselors held individual advising meetings with 9th and 10th grade students to schedule courses for the 2026-27 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 Scheduling Resources for Students and Parents to Review:

1. **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.* There is a separate scheduling module for each grade level.
2. **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.
3. **NEW...PAW Prints:** This is a new resource created in conjunction with each CHS Academic Department that provides students with 4 outcomes/PAW prints for each course. These PAW prints help highlight what a greyhound student will walk away with at the conclusion of each course. A link to the PAW Prints document will be included within the scheduling information email to all parents.

Enrollment for Private School Students: Enrollment for 8th grade private school students will be on February 19th and 20rd, 2026. 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 2026.

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 16th will be our schoolwide Mental Wellness Week. The theme of the week is “Mental Health Matters”. 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! @carmelhscounseling, @fc.counseling.chs, and @carmelhighschoolofficial

SAT Administration on March 5th

All CHS Juniors will take the SAT on March 5th 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 5th.

Hoosier Boys & Girls State

Applications will be available in late January for juniors interested in attending Hoosier Boys State or Hoosier Girls State this summer. **Hoosier Boys State** will be held from **June 14 - June 19, 2026** at Trine University in Angola, Indiana. **Hoosier Girls State** will be held **June 21 - June 27, 2026** also at Trine University. Hoosier Boys/Girls State programs are sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Participants learn about government processes, citizenship, and leadership.

Due to the generous support of organizations such as Carmel Rotary, Carmel American Legion Post 155, and Carmel High School, the \$350 fee involved in attending the conference has been covered for past CHS delegates. Students interested in attending must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Delegates must be able to attend the entire week-long session.

Information on the application process is available through the U.S. History teachers as well as the CHS Counseling Canvas course.

College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) Information

- **Freshman/Sophomore College & Career Planning Night, Thursday, February 19th, 6:30 p.m.**
The program format will include an introductory session along with break-out sessions on a variety of topics. Students and parents can choose to attend two breakout sessions. The program is most appropriate for freshman and sophomore students and families; however, all grade levels are welcome to attend.
Breakout Session Topics Include:
 - "Paying for College: What do you need to know now?"
 - "Top 10 Truths About the College Search & Career Exploration Process"
 - "Navigating High School and the College/Career Exploration Process: How Can Parents Help?"
 - "College Visits: Why are they important? How to maximize visit opportunities and find a college fit."
 - "Post-High School Options in the Military"
- **Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair NEW LOCATION: Greyhound Activity Center!**
High school students and parents are invited to the Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair on Wednesday, March 11th, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. The fair is sponsored by the Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling (INACAC) with the help of local high school counselors. With over 100 colleges and universities represented, this is a great opportunity for students of all grade levels to explore post-secondary options and connect with admission representatives.
 - Cost: Free
 - Registration: Visit [StriveFair.com](https://www.strivefair.com) to get a barcode for easy electronic info sharing.

- Location (NEW): Carmel High School Greyhound Activity Center (GAC)
 - *Address:* 2400 East Smoky Row, Carmel, IN 46032. This address differs from the main high school address and is located at the Carmel High School football stadium complex.
 - *Parking:* Northwest side of the Carmel High School football stadium.

A list of attending colleges will be shared one week prior to the event.

- **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 opt-out waiver, 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 22nd 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 31st 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 2nd. 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 2026 graduation bulletin.

The last day to submit scholarship confirmations for recognition by Graduation is **Monday, May 4, 2026**. Submissions will be accepted until June 1st for inclusion in the online scholarship list. Thank you for helping us to fully recognize your Class of 2026 accomplishments!

Questions about scholarship confirmations should be directed to Melinda Stephan mstephan@ccs.k12.in.us or Veronique Sutcliffe vsutclif@ccs.k12.in.us in the CHS Counseling Office.

- **Future Programming...Save the Date!**
 - February 19, 2026 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Freshman/Sophomore College & Career Planning Night**, starts in the CHS Auditorium.
 - March 11, 2026 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair**, Carmel High School Greyhound Activity Center (GAC)
 - March 31, 2026 6:30 p.m. **After the FAFSA: Finalizing Financial Aid** (for seniors/families), CHS Community Room
 - April 21, 2026 6-7:30 p.m. **Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair**, in the Carmel High School Freshman Cafeteria.
- **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 [@carmelhscounseling](#) and the Freshman Center Counseling office on Instagram [@fc.counseling.chs](#)
 - Follow the CCRC on Instagram [@chscollegecareer](#)