

CHS PTO Counseling Update November 13, 2025

Scheduling Information for 2026-27

Counselors met with current 9th graders on November 4th and 10th graders on November 6th during SSRT to go over the course scheduling process as a large group. While 11th grade students viewed a video on November 10th during SSRT. Individual advising meetings for current 9th and 10th grade students started this week.

Advising Meetings

9th Graders: Freshmen students will meet individually with a Freshman Counselor during English classes in the month of November. Students are not required to schedule these appointment times.

10th Graders: Sophomore students will need to schedule individual advising meetings with their counselors. Each counselor is sending an email to your child through their Naviance account and/or Canvas account with a link to set up this meeting using Google Calendar. Please encourage your student to complete this step in the scheduling process ASAP if they have not already done so.

11th Graders: Juniors will not schedule with counselors until after Winter Break. Counselors will email Google Calendar links to students after we return to school in January.

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 impactful 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.

Standardized Testing Information

On October 22, all freshmen took the PSAT 8/9 and sophomores and juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT. **PSAT scores were released on November 6th**, and a message was sent home to parents with instructions for accessing scores along with resources for understanding those scores.

All JUNIORS will take the SAT at school on March 5, 2026 paid for by the state of Indiana. More information will be sent to juniors and parents in January.

Testing Accommodations:

On March 5, 2026, all JUNIORS will take the SAT during the school day. If your student has a 504 Plan or an IEP with testing accommodations, accommodations have been requested through the College Board. Any accommodations your student is approved for **MUST** be administered on the March 5 School-Day SAT. These accommodations will also be in place for any future SAT or AP tests. If any additions or deletions need to be made, the deadline for additional requests is January 13, 2026.

If your student has an IEP or 504 Plan with testing accommodations and will need testing accommodations for an ACT test, please indicate the need for accommodations during the ACT registration process. We will receive an email to make the accommodations request and you will be notified once that is approved or denied.

If you have any questions about current or future testing accommodations, please contact Stephanie Payne at spayne@ccs.k12.in.us.

College & Career Resource Center Information

College Applications:

- Seniors should pay close attention to college application deadlines, especially those that must be met for full scholarship consideration from the schools to which they are applying. The next major deadlines are December 1st and January 1st. Seniors must use their Naviance Student account to request their transcripts and update their application submission status. Counselors ask for at least two weeks to process application materials requests and meet all deadlines. **Requests for transcripts and other college application materials, for deadlines that occur during the Winter Break, must be submitted no later than December 5th.**

- Once Seniors apply to colleges, they should check their email regularly and follow directions from each of their colleges. Colleges will communicate with applicants about the status of their application, creating portal accounts, applying for scholarships, and more via email!

Understanding the Financial Aid & Scholarship Process

Paying for college is on the minds of all parents of college-bound students, and having a clearer understanding about the financial aid process, scholarship resources, and important due dates can help make the college cost and affordability question a little less confusing. The Counseling Office has created two documents to help students and parents navigate the financial aid and scholarship process. These documents: *Understanding the Financial Aid Process* and *Finding Scholarships and Merit-based Aid Opportunities* are available in the Counseling Canvas Course in the resources section. To summarize these documents, students and parents should know that:

- All state and federal aid consideration requires completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some merit-based aid and scholarship opportunities also require completion of the FAFSA.
- **The FAFSA is now open.** It is typically completed during the senior year prior to attending college in the fall, and it must be submitted each year of college to be considered for financial aid. The deadline to submit the FAFSA in Indiana is April 15th, however some schools may require students to submit the FAFSA earlier.
- There are several resources where families can gain information and get assistance with the financial aid process including:
 - U.S. Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid (studentaid.ed.gov)
 - Indiana Commission for Higher Education (www.in.gov/che)
 - INvestEd Indiana (www.investedindiana.org)
- **ALL graduating seniors should plan to complete the FAFSA to keep all of their financial aid and scholarship options open. NOTE:** The State of Indiana requires all high school seniors to submit a FAFSA or complete an opt-out waiver.
- The CHS Counseling Office maintains scholarship resources online in Naviance Student. Encourage your seniors to explore the scholarship resources in their Naviance Student Account early and often! Also, follow us on Instagram @chscollegecareer and check Canvas announcements regularly for updates on scholarship information that we receive throughout the winter months.

Carmel Education Foundation (CEF) Scholarships

Founded in 1966, the Carmel Education Foundation (CEF) has as its mission to support the academic achievement of Carmel Clay students through scholarships and teacher grants. Over its 45-year history, CEF has provided more than \$1.7 million in scholarships to CHS graduates. CEF offers over 100 scholarships. These scholarships have specific eligibility requirements that differ from scholarship-to-scholarship, such as evidence of financial need, academic achievement, leadership, extracurricular involvement, etc.

Any CHS senior pursuing higher education by attending a college, university, or vocational school is invited to apply for a CEF scholarship. Information about CEF's 2026 scholarships can be found at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/scholarships/application-process>. The CEF Scholarship Application is scheduled to open on November 14, 2025. The CEF Scholarship application deadline is March 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming CCRC Programming

- **CHS will host a Healthcare & Human Services Majors & Careers Fair, November 18th**, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Freshman Center Cafeteria. Students and families will have an opportunity to learn about healthcare/human services educational options as well as learn about related careers from professionals and employers. The event will be a fair format with the option to attend breakout sessions. A list of participating organizations and college programs will be shared SOON!
- **Military Academy /ROTC Panel, January 30th**, 11:15-12:15 (SSRT) in the CHS Community Room
- **Freshman/Sophomore College & Career Planning Night, February 19th**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. starts in the CHS Auditorium.
- **After the FAFSA: Finalizing Financial Aid program**, March 31st, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the CHS Community Room
- **Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair, April 21st**, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Freshman Cafeteria
- **CHS College Advisors Ms. Beth Henke and Mr. Pettibone, along with Mrs. Stephan, have been busy meeting with students and families who want assistance with the college search/application and career exploration process.** Collectively, we have met with/assisted over 600 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