

CHS PTO Counseling Update March 6, 2026

Scheduling

- **March 1st was the deadline for students to make changes to their 2026-27 course requests for any reason.** Between March 2nd and May 1st, counselors can only make changes if there is room in a course. The final deadline to make schedule change requests for the entire 2026-27 school year is May 1st. Limited reasons for schedule changes after May 1st are listed in the Carmel High School Program of Studies.
- **Summer School:** There are limited summer school options available to students. An email message was sent to parents in grades 9-11 on January 30th outlining course options and eligibility. The content of that message is included at the end of this update.

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

College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) Information

- **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.

- **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 THE DATE!

- 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. 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!**
 - 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 nearly 900 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](#)

CHS SUMMER SCHOOL: INDIANA ONLINE

CHS Summer School via Indiana Online

- Course Dates: June 4 – July 19, 2026
- Registration Window: February 2 – June 3, 2026
- Credit Limit: For the summer of 2026, CHS students have the opportunity to take up to 2 approved courses/credits offered through Indiana Online. This limit applies across all 4 categories (New Diploma, Credit Recovery, Grade Retake, and Additional Credit).

How to Register

1. Review Guidelines: Please read the updated 2026 eligibility and payment rules below.
2. Request Course: Create an account and register at Indiana Online.
3. Approval: Your School Counselor will receive your request and approve or deny it based on eligibility.

Questions? Contact your student's school counselor.

2026 Summer School Course Eligibility

1: NEW DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Students in the Class of 2029 will be allowed to register for up to 2 Indiana Online summer school courses at their own cost (*See fee waiver information below) to fulfill any of the following new Indiana Diploma requirements:

- Personal Financial Responsibility
- Computing Foundations
- Preparing for College & Careers

Students in the Class of 2028 will be allowed to register for Personal Financial Responsibility at their own cost (*See fee waiver below) in order to meet their diploma requirement.

2: CREDIT RECOVERY

If a student has failed a course which is required for graduation and would like to register for the Indiana Online Summer School for the purposes of credit recovery, CHS will pay the Indiana Online tuition for the first course taken during the summer.

A current CHS student choosing to enroll in a 2nd course for credit recovery will be responsible for payment of the Indiana Online course tuition. (*See fee waiver below)

3: GRADE RETAKE

A CHS student may elect to take 1 course at Indiana Online during the summer for the purpose of improving a previous semester grade. The course being retaken through Indiana Online must match the course title and DOE code of the CHS course.

The student/family will be solely responsible for the Indiana Online course tuition for these courses. (*See fee waiver below)

The CHS Grade Retake Policy listed on page 34 in the CHS Student Handbook will be in effect in regards to how the grade will apply to the student's transcript and cumulative GPA.

4: ADDITIONAL CREDIT OPTIONS

Students who are out of sequence in their math courses due to a previous course failure may enroll in a one semester math course to get back on track. They must intend to move on to the next level math course during the subsequent fall semester. The summer course will be paid for by CHS if they are also not taking a credit recovery course via Indiana Online. This option must be approved by their school counselor.

IB Diploma students who cannot fit required Indiana diploma courses in their 11th/12th grade schedule due to IB Diploma requirements, should discuss the potential of taking one summer Indiana Online course with their school counselor. This summer course will be paid for by CHS if it is the only course in which the student is enrolled.

***FEE WAIVER**

Any student who is currently registered under the Free/Reduced Lunch or 21st Century Scholars programs are eligible for a tuition waiver for any of the scenarios above. Please see your school counselor to verify eligibility. If you are eligible for the fee waiver, your counselor will work with Indiana Online to change the payment status in your Indiana Online account.