CHS PTO Counseling Update August 29, 2025

- **Counseling Class Introductions:** Students in all grades viewed a brief video specific to their grade during SSRT on August 18th. The videos review steps for a successful year and ways that the CHS Counseling Department supports students. The links to those videos were sent home in a parent messenger and are posted in the Counseling Department Canvas course.

- **Senior Meetings**: Counselors will begin meeting individually with their seniors after the Labor Day holiday and will do so through early October. These meetings will include a final check on diploma requirements and a review of each student's post-high school plans. Seniors were sent an email message from their counselor asking them to select an appointment time. In this message they were also reminded of key college application resources highlighted in previous messaging.

- **CHS Social Workers** support the social and emotional needs of our students and work with families to provide information about community resources. CHS Social Workers also work to educate the school community about mental health resources and collaborate with the PTO to administer the Backpack program. There is one social worker who supports the Freshman Center and three social workers who support the 10-12 building.

- **Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 will be taking the PSAT on October 22nd** during the morning hours. Students are automatically registered for the PSAT by CHS. Seniors will not report to school that day. Additional details will be sent out as we get closer to the test date.

- **CHS Students can request an appointment with their counselor or the College and Career Resource Center online!** Students just need to login to their PowerSchool account, click on *Forms,* and then complete the appropriate request form for either their counselor, the CCRC , or for a scheduling issue. NOTE: the period for requesting schedule changes was the first eight days of the semester.

- **Be sure to use the Counseling Department Canvas course!** All CHS students are automatically added to the Counseling Department Canvas course,and parent observers in Canvas can view the course content as well. The Canvas course includes resources and information aimed at supporting our students' academic, social-emotional, and career development needs.

- **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 our website at www.ccs.k12.in.us/chs/counseling
    - Be an observer of the Counseling Department Canvas Course
    - Follow the CHS Counseling Department on Instagram @carmelhscounseling
    - Follow the CCRC on Instagram @chscollegecareer
    - Follow the Freshman Center Counseling Office on Instagram @fc.counseling.chs

- **Naviance Student self-discovery and career exploration tools!** Naviance student is a comprehensive college and career readiness platform for which all CHS students have an account. Students just need to login to the CCS student portal and click on the Naviance icon to access this resource. There are several Self-Discovery assessments to help students make connections with what they know about themselves and how that fits with a variety of educational and career pathways. We will introduce/reintroduce students to these tools during SSRT over the course of the school year.

- **College Application Processes and Resources:** Information about college application processes has been sent to seniors throughout the summer and upon our return to school. Specifically, a tutorial video highlighting how Naviance Student is utilized in these processes was shared with seniors AND can be accessed in the Counseling Canvas course. Also, all seniors were invited to join a **Virtual College Application Boot Camp** Canvas course last spring. That course covers all aspects of the college search and application process!

- **College Application & Essay Help Sessions for CHS Seniors.** CHS Seniors can get help with their college applications and essays during SSRT throughout the fall semester. These in-person sessions will take place in the CCRC office located in B107 across from the Counseling Department. Space is limited, and seniors must sign up in advance in their Naviance Student account.

- **Fishers High School will host the Hamilton County College Fair on September 11th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** This is a great way for students to explore college options close to home! The event is free, and students are encouraged to register in advance at www.strivefair.com to be able to easily share their contact information with college admission reps.

- **CHS will host a Junior/Senior College Information Night on Tuesday, September 16th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting in the CHS Auditorium** The program is most appropriate for junior/senior students and parents, but all are welcome to participate. A general information session will occur during the first 30 minutes of the program, and then attendees can choose to attend two breakout sessions from a selection of topics. More details will be sent to all juniors/seniors and their parents soon.

- **Each year, over 100 college and university admissions representatives visit Carmel High School during the fall semester to share information about their campuses with our students**. Participation in these visits is a convenient way for students to research colleges and make direct connections with admissions professionals. The visits occur during SSRT, and **students in all grades** are welcome and encouraged to sign-up. Students interested in participating in a college rep visit must sign-up through their Naviance account at least 24 hours in advance. A schedule of upcoming admission rep visits can be viewed from your student's Naviance Student account.

- **NOTE: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will open on October 1st.** Information about applying for Financial Aid will go out to all CHS seniors in early-October, and we will offer **a Financial Aid Night for students and parents on October 22nd.** Our partners at INvestEd www.investedindiana.org will be the featured presenter. **The deadline to submit the FAFSA in the State of Indiana is April 15th, but please note that some colleges set an earlier FAFSA deadline for scholarship and financial aid consideration.**

- **CHS College & Career Counselors, Ms. Henke and Mr. Pettibone, are eager to meet with students and families who want assistance with the college search and career exploration process**. In the fall, priority is given to seniors requesting appointments, but students in all grade levels are welcome to make an appointment. Students can request an appointment by completing a request form in their PowerSchool account. Parents are welcome to join their students during these meetings, either in person or virtually. The CCRC is located in B107 across from the Counseling Department.