

CHS PTO Counseling Update May 1, 2026

Scheduling

- **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](#). Questions about course requests/schedules for next year should be directed to your student's CHS counselor.
- **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.

Senior Stuff

- **Encourage your seniors to complete the Class of 2026 Senior Survey by May 22nd!** It is important for our seniors to complete the Class of 2026 Senior Survey which is linked on the homepage of your Naviance account. This questionnaire allows seniors to update post-secondary plans, college admission outcomes and request their final transcript for the college they will attend.
- **Seniors were sent a High School to College Transition Checklist** via Canvas announcement on May 1st, and parents received the same information via email. The checklist answers many of the frequently asked questions we receive during this time of year and outlines important next steps for college-bound seniors. You can find the checklist document [here](#).
- **Graduating Seniors: Request Your Final Transcript:** Almost all colleges require a final transcript and we DO NOT send them automatically – your student must make the request for a final transcript in Naviance Student and tell us where they plan to attend. This will be done through the Class of 2026 Senior Survey mentioned above.

*Please note that we do not mail final transcripts to graduating seniors, but you are welcome to stop by the Counseling Center any time [after June 30](#) to pick up a copy. You may call Wendy Pemberton, CHS Registrar at 317-571-5922 Ext. 7431 or email her at wpember1@ccs.k12.in.us. Parents of graduating seniors may get transcripts through the summer months, but after September 1, only the graduate will be allowed access to any of their Carmel High School records. Graduating senior PowerSchool accounts will be de-activated shortly after graduation.

Hello Xello!

We are excited to announce that starting with the **2026-27 school year**, Carmel High School will be transitioning to a new college and career planning platform called **Xello**.

While Naviance has served us well, Xello offers a more modern, intuitive, and interactive experience to help students navigate their futures. Similar to Naviance, students will use Xello for:

- **The College Application Process:** Managing transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- **College & Career Research:** Exploring schools and industries that match student interests and goals.
- **Self-Discovery:** Connecting students' strengths, skills, and interests.

Transitioning Your Student's Data

As we move to this new system, please be aware that information currently stored in Naviance will not automatically migrate to Xello. To ensure your student does not lose their previous work, we ask that they log in to Naviance by May 22nd to save the following:

- College Lists: "Colleges I'm Thinking About" and "Colleges I'm Applying To."
- Resumes: Any documents created within the Naviance Resume Builder.
- Self-Discovery Results: Results from assessments such as the Career Interest Profiler or Strengths Explorer.

What to Expect Next

Xello will serve as the hub for the same essential functions you are familiar with, including managing transcript requests, letters of recommendation, and career research.

To ensure a smooth transition for our families:

- Training Resources: In August, the Counseling Department will provide training videos and detailed information to help students and parents navigate the new platform.
- Account Access: Details on how to log in to your new parent Xello account will be sent home at the start of the 2026-27 school year.

We are excited about the enhanced features Xello brings to our students and look forward to supporting your family through this transition.

Here is a [short video](#) which highlights the resources and student user interface for Xello. Keep an eye on your email for more updates as we get closer to the new school year.

College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) Information

Scholarship Award Information

- **CHS Community Scholarship Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 20th starting at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium.** Seniors to be recognized at Community Scholarship Night will receive invitations to attend in the coming week. Carmel Education Foundation scholarships and many local scholarships are presented during this program, along with Military Academy appointments and ROTC scholarships.

- **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.

Class of 2027 College & Career Planning Resources

- **In late-March and again in late-April the College & Career Resource Center (CCRC) sent a [recorded presentation](#) to current juniors and their parents called *Top 10 Things Juniors Can Do Before Senior Year*.** This presentation focuses on the things the Class of 2027 can be doing to prepare for the college application process and/or prepare for next steps after graduation. Juniors and their parents should continue to keep an eye out for more resources that we will roll out before the end of the year and during summer to help support rising seniors in their post-high school planning.
- **The CHS College & Career Resource Center has created a Class of 2027 Virtual College Application Boot Camp Course in Canvas** that covers every aspect of the college search and application process. All current CHS juniors will be invited to join the College Application Boot Camp Course before the end of the school year. With this virtual format, students can work through the information, videos, and exercises on THEIR schedule as quickly or as slowly as they'd like! Summer would be an ideal time to work through this boot camp course in preparation for the Fall semester, when many students will be completing college applications. **NOTE:** there are no "assignments" or grades associated with the boot camp course, just a lot of useful information to help take the mystery out of the process.
- **The CCRC plans to offer college application and essay help sessions for Class of 2027 seniors in early-August prior to the start of school.** At these help sessions, students can have drafts of their college essays reviewed and get help with application processes and questions. More details about how to sign up for a help session slot will be shared during the summer months. While space will be limited for these help sessions, please know that additional opportunities to get help will be available throughout the fall semester!
- **CHS College Advisors, Ms. Beth Henke and Mr. Harry Pettibone, are still busy meeting with students and families who want assistance with the college search and career exploration process.** Collectively, we have met with over 1,000 students/parents in the CCRC since the school year started! There are still appointments available through the end of school! 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](#)

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.