

CHS PTO Counseling Update November 14, 2024

Scheduling Information for 2025-26

Counselors have begun individual advising meetings with students to schedule courses for the 2025-26 academic year. The Scheduling Module in the CHS Counseling Canvas course provides students the general resources and information needed to select their 2025-2026 courses. We encourage parents and students to review the curricular opportunities available at CHS before the students' individual meetings in order to maximize the student advising time with CHS counselors.

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 sent 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 if they haven't 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 Resources for Students and Parents to Review:

- **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.*
- **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.
- **Program information:** Learn about the wide variety of programs available at CHS by reviewing our "Academic Programming: Academic Programs & Grad Pathways" resource. This resource is posted in the Counseling Canvas course within "Academics" and includes links to topics such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Career & Technical Education (CTE) options, AVID, Indiana College Core (ICC) and more.

Enrollment for Private School Students

Enrollment for 8th grade private school students will be on February 19 & 20, 2025. 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 2025.

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.

Testing Accommodations

On March 4, 2025, 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. You should have received a letter indicating the approval or denial of accommodations along with an assigned SSD#. Any accommodations your student is approved for MUST be administered on the March 4 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 12, 2025.

NOTE: Starting in spring 2025, students with extended time (time and one-half, double time, or more) will have the option of moving to the next part of the test before their full extended time expires, once the standard testing time has passed. While students are encouraged to use all of the time they need and are approved for, they won't be required to stay for their full extended time if they finish testing or are ready to move on sooner.

This new policy applies to the full SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9) and also to AP Exams. It applies to students who are approved for an accommodation of extended time, as well as to students who are approved for extended time as an English Learner accommodation (EL).

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. I will receive an email to make the accommodations request and you will be notified once that is approved or denied.

If you have a current 8th grader with an IEP or 504 plan with testing accommodations who will need testing accommodations for the freshman 8/9 PSAT, please be sure to have your student create a College Board account so CHS can request accommodations for him/her before the end of the school year.

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

- **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 6th.**
- **CHS will host a Business Majors & Careers Fair, November 20th**, 6-8 p.m. in the Freshman Center Cafeteria. Students and families will have an opportunity to learn about business 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.
- **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2025-26 is scheduled to open on December 1, 2024.** 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. CHS Seniors and parents will receive updates about completing the FAFSA throughout the next several months, including resources for getting help with the FAFSA. **NOTE:** recent Indiana legislation requires all public high school seniors to submit the FAFSA during their senior year OR complete a waiver indicating that they do not intend to do so. CHS has always encouraged all seniors to submit the FAFSA in order to maximize their financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
 - **SAVE THESE DATES!**
 - **CHS will offer a FAFSA completion event on Tuesday, January 21st** from 4:30-7:00 p.m. in the CHS Media Center. CHS seniors and their parents can get help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)...no matter where they are in the process. Our partners from INvestEd www.investedindiana.org will be available to help families navigate the FAFSA process.
 - **Families can also get help with the FAFSA at College Goal Sunday on Sunday, February 23rd 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 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.**
- **Local and private scholarship information will begin to come into the Counseling Office more frequently throughout the winter and early spring months.** 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 over 100 local scholarships to CHS students.** The CEF scholarship application will open November 15th. The deadline

to submit the CEF application is March 1st. More information can be found at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/scholarships>

- **Students should keep an eye on their Canvas announcements and email for local scholarship updates!**

- **Future Programming...Save the Date!**
 - **Military Academy /ROTC Panel, January 29th**, 11:15-12:15 (SSRT) in the CHS Community Room
 - **Freshman/Sophomore College & Career Planning Night, February 18th**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. starts in the CHS Auditorium.
 - **STEM Majors & Careers Fair, March 20th**, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the 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 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 @carmelhscounseling and the Freshman Center Counseling office on Instagram @fc.counseling.chs
 - Follow the CCRC on Instagram @chscollegecareer