



College and Career Readiness Center

Our Lady of Tepeyac High School

2026-2027 Programming Overview

COURSES

- **Academic Success**

- Full-Year 1st year Students: Supporting the transition into High School. We focus on academic, organizational, and social/emotional skills. The Second Semester typically focuses on Speech/Communication.
- Topics covered in the first semester include Organization (Planner, Locker, Time Management), School Traditions/Routines, Asking for Help, Community Building, Goal Setting, Graduation Requirements, Writing Emails, Elevator Pitch, and Job Application Skills and Prep.
- Topics covered in the second semester include: Public Speaking, How to Create a Slide Presentation, and Debate (Including Development Arguments, Finding Evidence, Creating and Responding to Rebuttals)
- Experiential Learning and Grading Based Class

- **College & Beyond**

- Fall Semester Caught taught lecture style that covers the College Application and Transition Process.
- Topics covered include: Personal Statements, the Common Application, Letters of Recommendation, Creating an Application List, FAFSA and FSA ID, Scholarships, and Trade Programs.
- Socio-Emotional topics include: How to Cope with Uncertainty/Change, How to Cope with Failure, Time Management.
- The semester ends with an introduction to reading Journal Articles and writing an Annotated Bibliography.
- On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Admissions Representatives from various local colleges and programs present to the senior class during class time.

MONTHLY PROGRAMMING

- **Junior Curriculum**

- Monthly programming that prepares Juniors for the college application process. Meetings happen in the student lounge during formation.
- Topics covered include Different Types of College and Universities, What to consider when applying to schools, Summer Internship Opportunities, Introduction to the Common Application, Writing a Personal Statement.
- Personal Statement writing begins in Late April and continues through the end of the school year. It is a multi-session lesson that pushes into their English Classes and formation to provide as much instruction and support before their first draft is due.
- By the end of Junior-year, students are expected to submit the first draft of their personal statement.
- This head start allows students to begin their Senior year on track to submit college applications by the Early Action Deadline. (Typically Nov. 1st)

- **Mentoring (Sophomores-Seniors)**

- The Mentorship program begins during Sophomore year. Mentors from the Chicago-land area who are passionate about guiding and empowering our young women are recruited and paired with small groups of 3-4 students.
- Mentorship is a 3-year long commitment as students keep the same mentor from sophomore to senior year.
- Mentors are invited to spend the morning with the mentees, various monthly topics, activities, and events are facilitated throughout the year. These activities allow mentors and mentees to bond, get to know each other, and check in.

- **Coffee + Careers**

- This is a monthly speaker-series program where various professionals are invited to present on their educational journey and career experiences.
- These meetings take place during the lunch/formation period, all students are invited to sign-up and attend.
- Past Career Fields include: Flight Attending, Nursing -ER, Nursing -Neonatal, Marketing and Social Media Content Creation, Nail and Cosmetology Certification, Careers in Law, and more!

- **College Chronicles**

- This is a monthly program offered to second-semester seniors. Through monthly formation meetings, seniors receive guidance to support them through their transition to college.

- Topics include: Campus Safety, College Social Life, Living with Roommates or in a Shared Space, College Registration and Enrollment, Campus Resources, and more!

SIGNATURE EVENTS

● **Senior Traditions***

- *Senior Sunrise*: Takes place sometime during the first two months of the school year. The senior classes coordinate a trip to a local beach to watch the sunrise together and commemorate the start of their last year of high school.
- *Grad Night*: Takes place during the last two months of the school year. Seniors have the option of purchasing a ticket to attend Grad Night at Six Flags from 9PM-3AM. It is a closed event open to only high school seniors and chaperones. CCR coordinates transportation to and from the park.
- *Decision Day, May 1st*: May 1st is a national deadline where seniors are expected to commit to their college/program of choice. Commitment usually requires submitting a deposit and various other steps to confirm enrollment. At Tepeyac, this day is usually accompanied by a senior dress-down and celebration to recognize all of the hard work done by seniors.

● **Financial Aid Nights**

- Financial Aid Nights are offered several times throughout the school year. A few after-school sessions are offered through October and November focusing on applying to FAFSA. More sessions are offered through March and April focusing on understanding financial aid packages and offers.
- CCR also coordinates individual family meetings to accommodate work schedules/provide extra support.

● **Career Day**

- Long annual event where up to 15-20 local professionals are invited to present on their educational journey and career experience.
- The day begins with a keynote speaker held in MOA Church. Everyone is then dismissed back to the HS building where students follow a 4-session schedule to hear from presenters.
- In the weeks prior to Career Day, students receive a list of finalized presenters and rank which ones they are most interested in attending. Students receive a personalized schedule based on their rankings.
- Students are also invited to come dressed in business casual clothing and are prepped on how to network and ask questions.
- This event typically takes place within the first week of March and takes place within the first half of the school day.

- **All-School College Visits**
 - This day typically takes place within the first two weeks of October. Each grade level visits a local college/university campus.
 - Previous schools visited include: Valparaiso University, Concordia University Chicago, Northwestern University, DePaul University, University of St. Francis, and more!
- **Summer Campus Visits**
 - CCR schedules several campus visits throughout the summer, these visits are open to all students.
 - Summer 2026 visits: Marquette University, Alverno College, Gies College of Business at UIUC, and Hope College
 - Summer 2025: UIC, Northwestern University, Gies College of Business

*Tepeyac offers more Senior Traditions, the ones listed are facilitated through the College and Career Readiness Center.