CHS PTO Counseling Update August 28, 2026

- **Counseling Department Introduction Videos and Grade Level Checklists:** Each year the CHS Counseling Department shares videos with students and parents highlighting how counselors and social workers support students. To complement the videos, grade-level checklists are also shared to help students understand key tasks, resources, and programming most appropriate for them. These videos and checklists are posted in the Counseling Canvas Course, and they will be promoted as part of the CHS Virtual Meet the Teacher Night on September 3rd.

- **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 will receive a Canvas 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 from CHS 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

- **NEW! Xello College & Career Readiness Platform.** CHS has switched from Naviance to Xello this year. Xello 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 Xello icon to access this resource. There are several career assessments to help students make connections with what they know about themselves and how that fits with a variety of educational and career pathways. Over the course of the school year, we will introduce students and families to the tools and resources available in Xello. Parents will ultimately have a Xello account of their own that is linked to their student's account.

- **College GO! Week in Indiana is September 21-25.** This week is dedicated to highlighting post-secondary educational resources and opportunities. During this week many Indiana colleges and universities waive their application fees. Both IU Bloomington and Purdue West Lafayette are participating this year! It is important to note that only the student application must be submitted during this week to receive the waived application fees. School materials such as transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc do not have to be received during this week for students to take advantage of the cost savings. More about which schools are participating can be found here: https://learnmoreindiana.org/college-discovery/college-go-initiative/

- **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 College Application Boot Camp Canvas course was shared with all seniors. This resource provides a start-to-finish overview of the college search and application process, and it specifically highlights how Xello is utilized in these processes. Parent observers in Canvas can also access the College Application Boot Camp Canvas Course!

- **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 the Calendar section of the College Application Boot Camp Canvas course. Help sessions will be released for sign-up one week at a time. Seniors can also request an individual appointment with one of the College & Career Advisors in the CCRC by completing a CCRC request form in PowerSchool

- **Hamilton Southeastern High School will host the Hamilton County College Fair on September 10th 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 Wednesday, September 23rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting in the CHS Freshman Cafeteria.** 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 in the Explore > Events section of Xello at least 24 hours in advance. SSRT Minga passes will be assigned for students who sign-up for college rep visits, and attendance will be taken at all visits.

- **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 27th.** 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.