

CHS PTO Counseling Update September 25, 2026

- **Senior Meetings:** Counselors will continue meeting individually with their seniors through early October. These meetings 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. 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students are reminded to bring their school issued chromebooks to SSRT today, September 25th in order to complete a PSAT digital readiness test prior to the PSAT on 10/22. NOTE: Seniors are not involved in testing and should not report to school. Students may use this day to complete work-based learning at their job, community service, college applications/essays, job shadow or attend a college visit.
- **The Carmel High School/Junior Achievement Career Ignite Fair is scheduled during the school day on October 6th and 7th.** This fair highlights career and training opportunities in a variety of career clusters. Students will have an opportunity to talk with professionals in career areas related to their courses as well as others that they may wish to explore. Students enrolled in career pathway principles courses will automatically attend the Career Ignite Fair, and any CHS student will have an opportunity to sign-up to attend the fair during SSRT on Tuesday, October 6th by signing up in their Xello account.
- **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. Xello is also used to submit school materials required for the college application process.
 - **ALERT!** CHS parents received messaging this week inviting them to create a parent/family account in Xello! Parents can explore the resources in Xello and view the work that their students' are doing in Xello to explore and plan for their futures.
- **SAVE THE DATE! CHS Business Majors & Careers Fair scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Freshman Center Cafeteria!** Connect with business professionals and college representatives to learn about business-related preparation programs and career opportunities.

- **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is NOW OPEN!**. 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 many colleges set an earlier FAFSA deadline for scholarship and financial aid consideration.** It's a good idea to plan to have your FAFSA submitted by January 1st to ensure everything is submitted in a timely manner to receive financial aid award letters from those colleges where a student has been admitted.
- **Get FREE help on the FAFSA! Sunday, October 4th is College Goal Sunday in Indiana!** This is a free event where families can get FAFSA assistance from financial aid professionals at sites throughout the state. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. local time. More information about College Goal Sunday locations can be found at www.collegegoalsunday.org **NOTE:** CHS will offer a FAFSA completion event in January for senior families, and there will be another statewide College Goal Sunday event in February. College/University Financial Aid offices are also a great resource for receiving assistance with the FAFSA.
- **Seniors should be reminded that important college application deadlines are getting closer.** While there are some colleges with October 15th deadlines, the most popular deadlines are November 1st, December 1st, and January 1st. Be sure that seniors are checking their email and Canvas announcements as both CHS and colleges will be communicating with them about important steps related to the application process.
- **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 Xello account at least 24 hours in advance. A schedule of upcoming admission rep visits can be viewed from your student's Xello account.
- **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.** CCRC Counselors have already met with nearly 300 students this fall! 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.
- **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