



GREYHOUND AZETTE

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL



**PRESENTED
BY
CHS PTO**

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6 www1.ccs.k12.in.us/chs/home

For newsletter submissions, corrections and questions contact CHS.PTO.Newsletter@gmail.com.

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A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL DR. TIM PHARES

Welcome back to CHS for the start of semester two. I hope everyone had a joyous and happy holiday season and you were able to relax and rejuvenate over winter break. As we say goodbye to 2023, I always look forward to the idea of a fresh start for our students and staff. It is an opportunity to reflect on what went well, what areas we can improve, and to look forward to the things to come throughout second semester.

As I reflect on the first semester, I am always amazed at our students and their ability to participate in educational opportunities, extra-curricular events, and co-curricular events. Our students' ability to learn to manage and prioritize their schedules is something that will only benefit them as adults. I always talk with my own children about these learning opportunities and it always doesn't come easily. Sometimes, these conversations are really hard at home and I recognize that as a parent. Also, a reflective and positive moment for me is the camaraderie our students and staff display on a daily basis. For a large school, this is something we all should be very, very proud of and know this is something exceptional to behold. CHS is a truly special place to be.

When I get the chance to speak with our students or staff, I like to mention the word opportunity. At Carmel High School, we have many opportunities for our students. Recently, I have visited our middle schools to talk with our families about opportunities at CHS over the next four years. We are in the middle of some very exciting things here regarding our career pathway opportunities for students. I encourage you to read more about all of our curriculum opportunities on our website linked [here](#).

I hope you had the chance to see one of our staff members, Sarah Wolff, on the Kelly Clarkson just before winter break. It was a very touching tribute to Sarah and our Carmel Dance Marathon showcasing the impact it has had on our students over the years. If you did not get a chance to see it, I have linked it [here](#) for you to watch.

We look forward to second semester. Before we know it, we will be back from spring break and ready to graduate our 2024 Senior Class. Let's make it a great semester and I look forward to seeing you around CHS at different events.

Go Hounds!

Dr. Phares





FEBRUARY TREATS

Help us show support for

Family & Consumer Science, Science,
Engineer & Tech Teachers

Teacher Treats

Each month, the PTO tries to highlight different departments at Carmel High School to celebrate and recognize. Please consider signing up to donate some fun treats for staff to enjoy this:

JANUARY

FEBRUARY



Attention Seniors!

The Distinguished Grad Application is now available on your Portal. This program celebrates the well-rounded Carmel Greyhound. Approximately 135 seniors will be recognized as either commended or distinguished at our CHS Graduation Ceremony. One extremely exceptional senior will be recognized as THE Distinguished Graduate for the Class of 2024. Seniors should complete the DG Worksheet prior to completing their application online, as they can only submit their online application one time and in one session. Seniors will be able to submit their applications until 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 2024.



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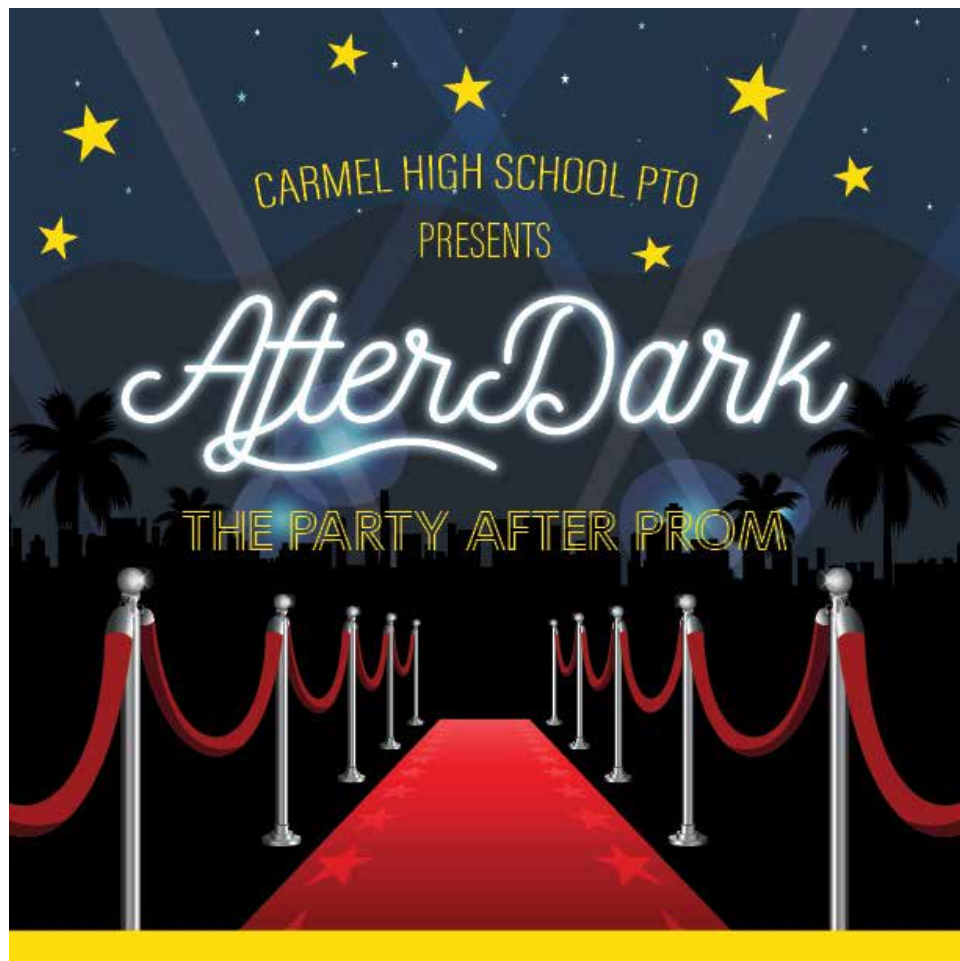
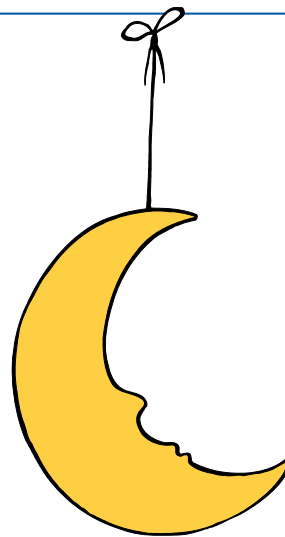


**ON AVERAGE, HUNTINGTON STUDENTS
WERE AWARDED MORE THAN
\$57,000 EACH**
IN SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS**



After Prom Committee

Help! Are you a night owl? Do you want to volunteer, but only for a limited time? Then After Prom Committee could be right for you - as part of a team you won't be working alone! Please consider helping with the planning, offering creative ideas and/or setting up AfterProm. If you'd like to be a part of the fun, please email Lisa at carmelptopresident@gmail.com. You can take on a small or large role depending on your schedule.





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Backpack Program

The CHS PTO Backpack Program sends food home on the weekends with students who need extra nutrition. The program relies entirely on donations from the community.

We packed 599 weekly bags first semester and sent home 31 family bags for winter break. This is an increase from Fall 2022 and more than double the number packed in Fall 2021. As a result of the

donations we received, we were able to send gift cards home to assist with needs over Fall, Thanksgiving, and Winter Breaks. Thank you again to all who volunteered and donated this Fall.

You can support the program by:

1. Donating gift cards from Meijer or Kroger in \$10 or \$25 amounts. Gift cards can be dropped off to the Freshman Center Administrative Assistants at Door 13 during school hours.
2. Donate to the program via [Paypal](#) or via check made out to CHS PTO with Backpack Program in the memo. Checks can be mailed to the High School or dropped off at Door 13.
3. Donating food. A list of needed items can be found on the [PTO website](#) and can also be dropped off at Door 13 or you can visit our [Amazon Wish List](#) and send needed items directly to the school.

Contact Jennifer Cassidy at CHSBackpackProgram@gmail.com with any questions. If you or your family could benefit from the Backpack Program, please contact Taryn Wanninger at (317) 846-7721 ext 7106 or twanning@ccs.k12.in.us

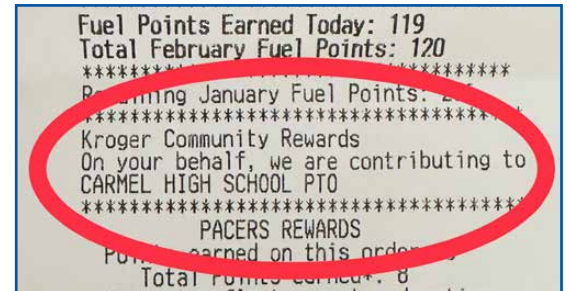
Thank you for helping us pack our pantry for the second semester!



Free & Easy Way to Earn Money for the PTO!

Join Kroger Rewards and select Carmel High School PTO - Kroger will donate a percentage of every purchase to the PTO at zero cost to you. Follow instructions at the link below and be sure to search for "Carmel High School PTO" or "NY210".

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>



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ATTENDANCE OFFICE REMINDERS

- We encourage you to use School Dismissal Manager (SDM) to help us manage absences, late arrivals, appointments, and leaving early. We encourage parents and guardians to download the app or bookmark the site.
- Any time your student is going to be late to school, please send us a message using School Dismissal Manager or the phone line. This will allow us to excuse your student's late arrival.
- You may elect to receive notifications from the PowerSchool App when your student has an unreported absence for any portion of school or tardy to a class throughout the day. If you would like to start receiving push notifications, please install the PowerSchool App on your mobile device. When downloading, use **CCS Code GKZX**. Once you are in the app, go to settings and allow notifications. If you receive a notification and your student is supposed to be at school, please contact your student and have them report to class. The PowerSchool app also allows parents and caregivers to monitor your student's attendance, regardless of push notifications.
- If you receive a push notification from PowerSchool that your student is marked UNV or TDU, this means we do not have a message from home about your student's absence. Please use School Dismissal Manager or the phone line to report the absence or late arrival.

STAYING INFORMED

We thank you for your partnership in helping your child(ren) be successful at Carmel High School. With so many avenues of support, we wanted to remind you of some of the best ways to stay informed:

Be an observer in your child(ren)'s Canvas courses. This will allow you to see what they see including assignment information and deadlines. Please follow [t](#) for instructions as to how to set up a parent Canvas account.

Have access to PowerSchool through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This will allow you to see the most current grade for your child(ren)'s courses. Please follow [this link](#) for instructions on how to access the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Reference the [Parents](#) section of the Carmel High School website for information about: reporting attendance, bus stops, lunches, calendars, textbook payments, tutoring, technology support (Canvas, Chromebook, Edmentum, PowerSchool).



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SCHEDULING AND ADVISING MEETINGS

CHS Counselors have wrapped up meeting with their 9th and 10th grade students and started meeting with their 11th grade students for individual advising meetings. During these meetings, counselors will review each student's course requests, identify how those requests meet diploma requirements, make any adjustments to their course requests if necessary, and discuss how their course requests fit in with their interests, strengths, and post-high school plans. The advising meetings are also a time for CHS counselors to discuss academic performance to date and answer any student questions. Junior advising meetings began January 22nd. **Each student was required to register for their appointment using the Google Calendar sent to them from their school counselor. Students could have also found the message with the calendar link in their Naviance account.** If they do not schedule an appointment their counselor will reach out to them with a pass to see them and go over their course requests. If you have any questions please feel



free to reach out to your counselor. If you don't know who your child's counselor is and can't locate it on our Counseling Canvas page please call our office at 317-

571-5922 for assistance. We are happy to help.

Important deadlines for 2023-2024 course scheduling include:

1. The Application Course Deadline is February 9th. A list of courses requiring a special application is located in the Canvas scheduling module.
2. The deadline to request a schedule change for any reason is March 1st.
3. The final schedule change deadline is May 1st. Please note that schedule change requests submitted between March 1st and May 1st are dependent on course availability.
4. The deadline to register for Summer PE is March 1st.

STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION

The SAT will be given to ALL Juniors on March 5th at CHS. This is a state mandate and REQUIRED for all juniors to take at school (beginning with the class of 2023 and beyond). There is no registration necessary and no cost to families. The results of this test score will appear in the student's College Board account about 3 weeks after testing and can later be sent to colleges and counted for admissions purposes.

Students who wish to sign-up for the ACT or SAT test can do so on their own. The ACT will be offered the following

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Saturday's at CHS: February 10 and April 13. The ACT is also offered at other testing locations on June 8 and July 13. The SAT will be offered on the following Saturday's at CHS: May 4 and June 1. The SAT is also offered at other testing locations on March 9 (not recommended given that your junior is taking it at school on March 5).

Registration for Saturday tests can be found online at either www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org. The cost for the SAT is \$60. The ACT costs \$66 or \$91 with the optional writing section. Most colleges are **NO LONGER** requiring the writing section, so plan ahead to see if you need to take the ACT with or without writing. Be sure to include the Carmel High School code (150445) with your registration. **We also encourage you to select up to four colleges to have your test scores sent directly.** This is offered as a part of your registration process for both the SAT and ACT tests and is free of charge at the time of registration. Please know that if you send scores to colleges and later decide to apply without test scores, the colleges will NOT pull testing information that may have been previously submitted.

It is recommended that students who plan to attend college take the SAT and ACT at least one time during the winter/spring of their junior year. Because most colleges will consider the highest combination of any college admission test scores presented with an application, many students will take either the SAT or ACT two times prior to their senior year. Please know that many colleges are now TEST OPTIONAL, so check out the admission requirements for colleges you are interested in applying to in order to see if the SAT or ACT are necessary to take.

Please keep in mind that standardized testing is only one piece of all the information that represents and presents students and their accomplishments. For most colleges and universities, the most important part of the student's record is the quality of the student's academic course work and the grades that they have earned in those classes. For highly selective schools, the quality of the student's character and her/his leadership in school and/or community activities weigh heavily.

Be sure to take advantage of the FREE online SAT test prep available through the Khan Academy. You can find this information within your College Board account. For additional test prep opportunities, please visit our Canvas Counseling Course.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

On March 5, 2024, 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 5 School-Day SAT. These accommodations will also be in place for any future SAT or AP tests.

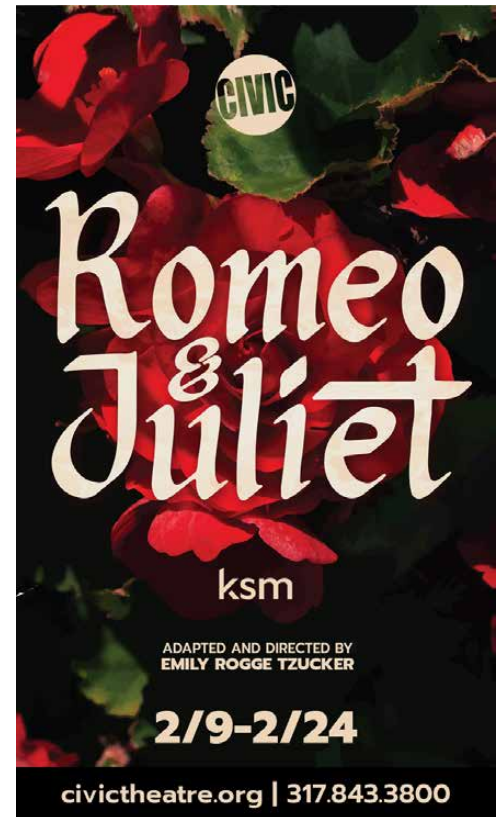
If your student has an IEP or 504 Plan with testing accommodations and will need testing accommodations for an ACT test, please indicate the need for accommodations during the ACT registration process. Our office will receive an email to make the accommodations request, and you will be notified once that is approved or denied.

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

MID-YEAR TRANSCRIPTS FOR CLASS OF 2024

There are often occasions when a college/university requests that you send them a mid-year or 7th semester transcript. This might include the following scenarios:

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1. You applied to a Common Application college which requires a mid-year report.
2. Your admission decision was deferred until the college receives a 7th semester transcript.
3. You applied to a college with a regular admissions deadline in January or February and your 7th semester GPA would be beneficial your application.

If any of these scenarios pertain to you or you need 7th semester transcript sent for a different reason, please follow the directions below:

- Common Application Schools: Counselors will upload a copy of your mid-year school report and a 7th semester transcript to the Common App. If college in which you applied to using the Common App will have access to these items if requested by them. There is no need to request a mid-year transcript for these Common App schools.
- Non-Common Application Schools: If you need a mid-year/7th semester transcript for any other reason, please follow the directions below:
 - ❑ Login to Naviance Student
 - ❑ Select the *Colleges* link followed by the *Colleges I'm Applying To* link
 - ❑ Click on the *+Request Transcript* link
 - What type of transcript are you requesting? Check the Mid-Year box ONLY
 - What additional materials, if any, do you want included? Leave blank
 - Where are you sending the transcripts? Select each of the non-Common App schools which you would like to send your mid-year transcript.

It is very important that you only request a mid-year transcript for those non-Common App schools which require them. These transcripts should be ready to send out beginning the 4th week of January. Please contact your school counselor if you have any questions.

HOOSIER BOYS & GIRLS STATE

Applications will be available in late January for juniors interested in attending Hoosier Boys State or Hoosier Girls State this summer. **Hoosier Boys State** will be held from **June 16 - June 22, 2024** at Trine University in Angola, Indiana. **Hoosier Girls State** will be held **June 23 - June 29, 2024** also at Trine University. Hoosier Boys/

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Girls State programs are sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Participants learn about government processes, citizenship, and leadership.

Due to the generous support of organizations such as Carmel Lions, Carmel Rotary, Carmel American Legion Post 155, and Carmel High School, our selected delegates incur no cost to attend. Students interested in attending must complete an application (including three teacher recommendations) and must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. *Delegates must be able to attend the entire week-long session.*

Information on the application process will be available through U.S. History teachers, as well as the CHS Counseling Canvas course, beginning in late January. The online application will only be available through the CHS Counseling Canvas course and will be due in late February. For more information, see www.boysandgirlsstate.org and <https://www.alahgs.org/>.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Starting with the Class of 2024, new Indiana legislation requires all high school seniors to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15th or formally opt out. The FAFSA is required to be considered for federal and state aid, and many colleges/universities require the FAFSA for institutional aid and scholarships. It is important to note that some colleges have earlier FAFSA submission deadlines.

With the opening of the 2024-25 FAFSA on December 31st,

there are important steps seniors and their families should take ASAP to ensure timely processing of their financial aid awards from colleges of interest:

- 1. Create an FSA ID Account for the student AND at least one parent. **NEW THIS YEAR:** The FSA ID may take 3-5 days to process BEFORE you will be able to start the FAFSA. **NOTE:** parents who already have an FSA ID should NOT create another. Completing this step now will allow you to start the FAFSA as soon as it opens. *Instructions for creating an FSA ID are linked at the end of this message.*
- 2. Review financial aid and scholarship resources for EACH of the colleges/programs of interest. Every school/program has different processes and opportunities for maximizing aid, and knowing what to expect BEFORE you apply is important. Pay attention to ALL school/program-specific deadlines.
- 3. Gather items needed to complete the FAFSA when it does open. Having all information and items gathered prior to starting the FAFSA will make the process easier. *A FAFSA Checklist of needed items is linked at the end of this message.*

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

As you prepare to maximize all available financial aid and scholarship resources, please consider taking advantage of these upcoming events:

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- **On Tuesday, February 13h from 4:30-7 p.m., CHS will host a FAFSA Completion event in the CHS Media Center**, where students and parents get help starting and/or completing their FAFSA. CHS will partner with [INvestEd Indiana](https://investedindiana.org/) to provide assistance from knowledgeable financial aid professionals. This is a first-come, first-served event, and seniors/parents can come when it is most convenient.
- **Sunday, February 25th is College Goal Sunday in Indiana.** At this event, families can get help completing the FAFSA from financial aid professionals at multiple statewide locations. More information about College Goal Sunday can be found at <http://collegegoalsunday.org/>.
- On Tuesday, March 19th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. CHS will host an After the FAFSA: Finalizing Financial Aid program, where you can learn about important steps to take AFTER submitting the FAFSA from an [INvestEd Indiana](https://investedindiana.org/) representative.

Creating Your FSA ID

FAFSA Checklist

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS LIST IN NAVIANCE STUDENT

Seniors searching for scholarship resources should check the scholarship list in Naviance Student regularly. These scholarships are primarily local in nature and provide opportunities to supplement the aid that colleges and universities may offer as part of their financial aid packages. Scholarships are updated year-round as the most updated information is received. It is a good idea for seniors to check the list weekly to make sure they stay aware of all opportunities. Also, be sure to follow us on Twitter @CHSCollege411 or Instagram @chscollegecareer to receive scholarship updates via social media.

CARMEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION (CEF) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHS SENIORS

The Carmel Education Foundation (CEF) provides financial scholarships to at least 80 CHS seniors each year, ranging in value from \$500- \$6,000. CEF scholarships can be used for expenses related to college, certification, or trade school. There are a variety of activities, experiences, or future plans for which CEF scholarships will be awarded.

We invite you to review the CEF scholarship materials available at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/scholarships/application-process>. Seniors should be sure to review the [directory outlining all scholarships](#) and their criteria, application instructions, and click the application link to get started. Applicants will be asked to create a profile and respond to a series of questions in a common application format to determine scholarship eligibility. Once the general application is submitted, applicants will be directed to a list of scholarships for which they will be considered, and they may be asked to complete a required essay for specific scholarships. Approximately half of the scholarships require a short essay, and the prompts are listed in the directory found on the CEF website. **NOTE:** some CEF scholarships require information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The 2024-25 FAFSA opened in late December 2023. Students wishing to be considered for these particular CEF scholarships must wait until they submit the FAFSA before submitting the CEF Scholarship Application.



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The **CEF application deadline is Friday, March 1st at 5:00 p.m.** All applicants will be contacted to verify their application content before they are notified of their application status in early May 2024. Scholarships will be presented at the CHS Community Scholarship Night on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. It is important to note that because CEF awards no more than one scholarship to a single student, they are truly spreading the wealth!

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. 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 2024 graduation bulletin.

The last day to submit scholarship confirmations for recognition in the graduation bulletin is Thursday, May 2nd. Thank you for helping us to fully recognize your Class of 2024 accomplishments!

Questions about scholarship confirmations should be directed to Melinda Stephan mstephan@ccs.k12.in.us or Leah Owens lowens@ccs.k12.in.us in the CHS Counseling Office.

NEED HELP PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL? THE COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCE CENTER (CCRC) CAN HELP!

CHS College & Career Advisors are ready to help ALL CHS students identify options for continuing their education and training once they graduate. No matter where students are in the process, we can help. Students in all grades are encouraged and welcome to make an appointment! Students can request an appointment using the Counseling request form in PowerSchool. Students should be sure to choose the "College & Career Resource Center Appointment Request" form. Parents may participate in these appointments as well. Questions about CCRC resources and programming can be directed to Melinda Stephan, mstephan@ccs.k12.in.us.



COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCE CENTER (CCRC) PROGRAMMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2023

Save the date and be sure to keep an eye out for more information about these upcoming CCRC events for students and families:

January 31, 2024 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (SSRT) Military Academy/ROTC Panel Program, CHS Community Room (Program open to students in all grades as well as parents)

February, 13, 2024 4:30-7:00 p.m. FAFSA Completion Event, CHS Media Center. This event is for graduating seniors/families who want assistance with submitting the FAFSA.

February 29, 2024 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Freshman/ Sophomore College & Career Planning Night, CHS Auditorium

March 19, 2024 6:30 p.m. After the FAFSA: Finalizing Financial Aid (for seniors/families), CHS Community Room

April 24, 2024 6:00-8:00 p.m. Skilled Trades Majors & Careers Fair, CHS Freshman Cafeteria



View the School Calendar
<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/chs/about/calendar>



Mark Your Calendar - March 5, 2024

On Tuesday, March 5th, all Carmel High School Juniors will take the SAT as required by the Indiana Department of Education. To ensure a successful testing environment, students in grades 9, 10 and 12 will have an E-Learning day. In the event of a school cancellation, Wednesday, March 6th will be used as a makeup date. Additional information will be provided through school messenger in the weeks ahead.