

**Date:** November 19, 2019  
**To:** FRESHMAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
**From:** CHS Guidance Counselors Janet Beitelspacher-Auer, Jeff Briney, and Kathi Carlson  
**RE:** FRESHMAN INFORMATION (two-sided)

**INDIVIDUAL PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETINGS:** All parents/guardians are welcome to schedule an individual parent/guardian meeting with their student's guidance counselor at any time throughout the school year. **Please contact the Guidance Office at (509) 769-5566 if you would like to schedule an individual parent/guardian meeting with your student's guidance counselor.**

**PSAT 9 EXAM:** The PSAT 9 Exam (Preliminary SAT) will be administered on March 3, 2020. This is an optional test that freshmen can sign up and pay to take this spring. **Students interested in taking the exam are advised to contact Mr. Pat Sobotta in the GEAR UP Room regarding WSU GEAR UP assistance with test preparation and assistance in paying the exam fee.** Students and parents/guardians will be notified beforehand with details regarding this opportunity.

**STATE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023:**

Students in the Class of 2023 must **pass** the following state assessments in order to graduate:

1. Smarter Balanced Assessment for Math (SBA Math) – *Administered in Grade 10*
2. Smarter Balanced Assessment for English Language Arts (SBA ELA) – *Administered in Grade 10*
3. WA Comprehensive Assessment for Science (WCAS) – *Administered in Grade 11*

**In addition, if your student took a state assessment exam as an eighth grader at LMS last spring, those results are included in this mailing.**

**FREE/REDUCED LUNCH FORMS:** As a reminder, **these forms must be completed each year at the beginning of the year during fall registration – but we accept forms at any time during the year after that as well.** There are many other opportunities available to those who qualify for free/reduced lunch as well (SAT/ACT fee waivers, college application fee waivers, etc.).

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The daily school bulletin is available on our website at [chs.csdk12.org](http://chs.csdk12.org). Important student announcements are made through our daily bulletin and it is very beneficial for our parents/guardians as well. We encourage all parents and guardians to read our daily bulletin.

**WSU GEAR UP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR FRESHMEN STUDENTS:** The WSU GEAR UP Program provides services and support to the Clarkston High School Class of 2023 students to help them prepare and succeed in high school, higher education, and their future. The services include academic support, tutoring (see below), college and career counseling, college campus visits, college financial planning, preparation for college entrance exams, and college applications. For more information contact Pat Sobotta at 509-769-6348 or [psobotta@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu](mailto:psobotta@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu) or Semeia Pfeifer at [spfeifer@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu](mailto:spfeifer@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu).

**WSU GEAR UP PROGRAM TUTORING SUPPORT AND CHS ACADEMIC SUPPORT:** The WSU GEAR UP Program is located in the lecture hall in the main building of the CHS campus. GEAR UP tutoring support is available in the GEAR UP room to ALL CHS students during the following times:

- Monday 11:10-11:45 am (lunch)
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 7:15-7:55 am, 11:10-11:45 am, 2:35-3:10 pm
- Friday 7:15-7:55 am, 11:10-11:45 am

In addition to GEAR UP Program tutoring, this year our students have Advisory every day. On 'A' days all students have the opportunity to go to other teachers to make up work and get extra help.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN REQUIREMENTS:**

**Check the 2019-20 Registration and Planning Guidebook on our website ([chs.csdk12.org](http://chs.csdk12.org)) for these requirements and updates.** Go to [chs.csdk12.org](http://chs.csdk12.org), under "Parent Resources" choose "Registration Information", then "click here to view the 2019-2020 Registration and Planning Guide".

**COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Reminder – **All students need at least 10 hours per year of community service/volunteering.** Opportunities for community service are posted through our school bulletin. Students who have attended CHS for four years need to have 40 hours of community service by April 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year. The form to log

volunteer service hours (Citizenship Volunteer Activity Form) can be found on our website under “Student Resources”, then “Senior Presentation Portfolio Materials”, choose “Citizenship Volunteer Activity Form”.

**U of I STEM ACCESS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM:** STEM Upward Bound is a federally funded project through the Department of Education. The main purpose of this project is to support and provide STEM knowledge to students who are in need or students who are interested in STEM field careers (science, technology, engineering or math). STEM Access offers school year mentoring/support and summer activities where students learn about numerous STEM careers, college skills, travels, and also earn dual credit in STEM courses. **The STEM Access Upward Bound Program is currently accepting applications** – go to <https://stemaccess.wordpress.com> or pick one up in the CHS guidance office. **The application deadline is December 6, 2019.** If you have questions on this program, email John Ariola at [jariol@uidaho.edu](mailto:jariol@uidaho.edu) or call 208-885-5819.

**RaiseMe PROGRAM:** RaiseMe is a new program to help make a college education more affordable which was launched with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and U.S. colleges. **Students can guarantee scholarships from 250+ colleges as early as 9<sup>th</sup> grade, making it easier to plan financially for school.** RaiseMe has proven to be a great tool to motivate student in high schools throughout the U.S. **As an example, students may:**

- Get an A in a course (\$100-\$1,000)
- Get a B in a course (\$40-\$600)
- Participate in a school club or sport (\$25-\$250)
- And much more!

Here are a couple of easy ways to support your students in using this unique tool:

1. Ensure that you student creates an account at [www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me).
2. Encourage your student to regularly add good grades, community service, extracurricular activities, and other achievements to his or her RaiseMe Portfolio to earn micro-scholarships from colleges.
3. Visit [www.raise.me/parents](http://www.raise.me/parents) for more information.
4. See your CHS guidance counselor if you have any questions.

**IF A STUDENT OR FAMILY BECOMES HOMELESS AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR:** This may include the need to stay in a: hotel/motel, shelter, car, park, campsite, trailer park, with relatives or friends, etc. The student and/or parent or guardian should contact the student’s guidance counselor at CHS ASAP for possible assistance. [If homelessness occurs in the summer time when CHS is closed, please contact our district office at 509-758-2531 and speak with Rebecca Lockhart or Diane Howell (our “Child in Transition” specialists)].