

Date: November 19, 2019

To: SOPHOMORE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

From: CHS Guidance Counselors Janet Beitelspacher-Auer, Jeff Briney and Kathi Carlson

RE: SOPHOMORE INFORMATION

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.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: The daily school bulletin is available on our website at 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.

PSAT/NMSQT EXAM: For those sophomore students who registered for and completed the PSAT/NMSQT Exam on October 19th, the results will be available by the end of December. (Students must sign in through their collegeboard.org account to view their results.) Students can use their PSAT/NMSQT Exam results to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses to prepare for the SAT Exam using Khan Academy as a personalized study guide for the SAT Exam. Go to www.khanacademy.org. NOTE: PSAT 9 Exam results (from last spring) were handed out this fall through Advisory classes to those sophomores who chose to take it last year.

PSAT 10 EXAM: The PSAT 10 Exam (Preliminary SAT) will be administered on March 3, 2020. This is an **optional** test that sophomores can sign up and pay to take this spring. Students and parents/guardians will be notified beforehand with details regarding this opportunity.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN REQUIREMENTS:

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

STATE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2022:

Students in the Class of 2022 must **PASS** the following state assessments in order to graduate:

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

All sophomores will take the SBA Math (Smarter Balanced Assessment for Math) and the SBA ELA (Smarter Balanced Assessment for English Language Arts) **this spring**. The exact testing dates and times will be announced to students and parents/guardians beforehand.

COLLEGE BOARD AP EXAMS: If your student signed up for an AP Exam (deadline to sign up and pay was Friday, November 7th), the test will be administered in May. Details regarding AP testing including test dates and times, and testing locations will be announced in April.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS: The SAT/ACT exams are mandatory college entrance exams for students planning on attending a four-year college or university. Students are not required to take both the SAT and ACT, but can take both if he/she chooses to do so. **We recommend that students take either the SAT or ACT in the late spring of their junior year and the same exam in the early fall of their senior year.** Students must register online for these exams. The SAT costs \$49.50 and the SAT with essay costs \$64.50. The ACT with writing costs \$68.00 and the basic ACT costs \$52.00. If a student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, he/she will qualify for a fee waiver – see your guidance counselor for the waiver. To register (including information regarding registration deadlines, test dates, and practice tests) go to:

- SAT - sat.org/register (College Board High School Code = 480-205/SAT testing is available at CHS/Clarkston Test Center = 48-113/Note: CHS is **NOT** a testing site for the August and June SAT Exams)
- ACT - www.actstudent.org (High School Code = 480-205, ACT testing is available in Lewiston)

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 1st 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”.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA): Students interested in NCAA college participation in sports should be aware of the requirements and forms that must be completed at www.ncaa.org. **Students need to sign up on the eligibility website by junior year and review NCAA eligibility requirements and make their counselor aware that they are interested in obtaining an NCAA Scholarship.**

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.

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 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 9th 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.
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 for more information.
4. See your CHS guidance counselor if you have any questions.

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.).

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)].