

Class of 2021: In the Loop Newsletter from Ms. Smith

November

What happened in October?

- Start of Quarter 2: October 18
- Distributed grade reports to students during lunch
- Parent / Teacher Conferences

What is happening in November/December?

- **Quarter 2 English visit** in the lab with Ms. Smith (see below for detailed information covered in the lab).
- **Q2 Midterm:** November 15
- **Thanksgiving Break:** Out of School - November 22, 23, and 24
- Upcoming: **PSAT 8/9 for freshman** – Wednesday, December 6
- The deadline for any **Semester Two Schedule Change** is Friday, December 8.
- **Semester exams:** December 18 & 19

Lab Recap, Quarter 2 English Class:

I am now in my third meeting with the entire freshman group! I started meeting with students October 25 and labs will go through November 9. The following is a rundown of what I am doing with students in our Quarter 2 visit.

- Activity One: Completing the Strengths Explorer Assessment in Naviance.
 - Students can access Naviance from any device with internet, just visit: <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=carbondalechs>
 - The Strengths Explorer assesses 10 talent themes for individuals and identifies each student's three strongest emerging talents.
 - Provided in the report are: explanations of themes, strategies for capitalizing on each, & action items to help students gain insight into their greatest talents.
 - I would encourage you to talk with your student about their strengths. They can access the results in Naviance anytime.
 - In Naviance, students were also given a list of career pathways that link with each of their three strengths. Students were asked to add at least one pathway to their Naviance profile for further research and review.
 - Student Pair & Share: they were asked to share their themes in their own words, discuss how they apply to school & home, as well as name the strength they agreed with most.
- Activity Two: Calculating Quarter 1 GPA and Creating a Goal GPA for Semester 1.
 - Students were given an activity sheet which included an example student schedule with made-up grades. I guided them through the process of calculating Quarter GPA.
 1. Convert letter grades to point values
 - A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; F=0
 2. Add up the point values for each class
 3. Then take the sum of the values and divide by the number of classes taken

NO QUESTION IS OFF LIMITS, NO THOUGHT TOO SILLY, NO DREAM TOO BIG

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- Students take 6 classes at CCHS and 7 if they are in an Early Bird
- 4. This results in the students current Quarter GPA
 - Students reflected on their Quarter GPA and determined a Goal GPA for Semester 1.
 - Students were then asked to journal their results from the Strengths Explorer and GPA activities in their Naviance account.
- Lastly, we discussed ways in which students can increase their GPA and do better in their classes, including utilizing the following resources:
 - ARP (Academic Review Period): every morning teachers are in their classrooms to meet with students. ARP runs from 8:00-8:25 a.m.
 - Terrier Tutoring: every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:15-4:45 p.m. students can receive tutoring. There are subject area teachers available to help students.
- To-go-packet: **These are great activities for students and parents/guardians to highlight, utilize, and enhance student strengths and future plans!**
 - At the end of the lab, students had a choice to pick up a to-go-packet which included:
 1. Career Family Tree Activity
 2. Sharing themes from Strengths Explorer
 3. Setting goals & plan of action utilizing strengths worksheet
 - If students need another copy; I have extra in my office!

Sophomore Year Forecasting (Brief) Information:

- During the week of February 12 (the Q3 English visit) I will meet with freshman to complete pre-registration (a.k.a., forecasting) for sophomore year.
- To explain the sophomore year scheduling process & course listing information, a video will be shared with all freshmen and available on my website after the winter break.
- Students interested in **Honors classes** need to pay close attention to announcements and talk with core teachers in the content-area they are interested in taking an Honors course. Each department has a different process and set of deadlines. Be aware that some deadlines may be as early as December.
- Information regarding the process for **Summer Drivers Education** will be shared in my Q3 visit. ANY student wanting to take Summer Drivers Education will need to follow the registration process, even if the student or his/her parents have talked with me about his/her interest in the summer section. Detailed information about requirements and dates will be shared in the Q3 visit.

Other ways to stay “IN THE LOOP”

- Encourage your students to join the Student Remind Group!
 - Remind is one-way communication from counselor to student and/or parent. Remind will allow me to send text messages to you individually or in a group.
 - Instructions for students to join: text the message “@2021stu” to 81010
- Never hesitate to contact me with questions and/or concerns. My email is krista.smith@cchs165.com

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