

# Class of 2021: In the Loop Newsletter

From Ms. Smith: September/October

## What happened in September?

- Picture Day
- Homecoming
- Counseling Lab with Ms. Smith (see more information below)

## What is happening in October?

- County Institute: Friday, October 6 (No School all day for students)
- Columbus Day: Monday, October 9 (No School)
- End of Quarter 1: Tuesday, October 17 (Let's focus on grades and the start to a great HS Transcript!)
- Theater Fall Play: October 20, 21, and 22
- Teacher In-Service: Thursday, October 26 (1/2 Day for students) & Friday, October 27 (No School all day for students)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences: Thursday, October 26 (5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and Friday, October 27 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.). To schedule an appointment visit:  
<http://www.cchs165.jacksn.k12.il.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=78029&pageId=9878318>
- Quarter 2 English Visit with Ms. Smith: students will complete the Strengths Explorer Survey in Naviance, review results and how they apply to their every day as well as potential career interests.

## Counseling Lab Recap:

The last couple weeks of September I was very fortunate and got to meet with the entire freshman class for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this year! Following is the content discussed during our Counseling Lab:

- We discussed the **results of the Freshman Questionnaire** they took with me during my Q1 English Visit.
- Freshman have been made aware they will take the **PSAT 8/9** the first week of December. We discussed the value of this assessment and the relevance to future opportunities.
- **Students completed a “Class of 2021 Freshman Survey” in Naviance.** This was a ‘getting to know you’ survey in which I will be gleaning information on what the Class of 2021 needs from me as their counselor. Some of the results from the survey include:
  - 73% of students are involved in an activity, club, and/or sport this semester! As research indicates, getting involved in school can increase students’ academic and social skills. Woohoo—this is very exciting!
  - At this time, 91% of freshman students indicate they are interested in college; 2% indicate they are interested in joining the workforce; and 7% indicate they are planning to join the military.
  - By results of the survey, the Class of 2021 really likes Skittles, Kit Kats, Chips, & Takis!

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

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- Based on these results I would encourage you to talk with your student on his or her future plans and continue to foster positive and open conversation about postsecondary planning.
- It is my hope that students who indicate college/university as their future plan, that they will have a list of at least top 5 colleges by sophomore year so that we can review Admission Requirements and make sure students are set up for success. For students indicating workforce as their postsecondary plan, that they are building the skills necessary to be prepared for their choice career. For those joining the military, that they are honing in on what branch is of interest to them so that by junior and senior year they can begin conversation with recruiters.
- A few sites to visit for information regarding postsecondary & college readiness include:

<https://www.nacacnet.org/advocacy--ethics/initiatives/steps/>

<http://www.collegeready.umn.edu/resources/documents/ParentGuide-EnglishFINAL.pdf>

[https://www.isbe.net/Documents/PaCE\\_Revisions.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/PaCE_Revisions.pdf)

<https://collegecost.ed.gov/cate/>

- **Naviance is a College & Career Readiness Solution that is available to all students at CCHS.** If you would like more information about the program, visit the following for a brief video: <https://www.naviance.com/solutions/parents-students>
- In addition to the survey in Naviance, in their counseling lab students **completed a foundational, flexible four-year-plan.** While creating four-year-plans we discussed students' chosen postsecondary plans (i.e., college/university; workforce/career; and/or military) and how that relates to high school planning and preparation.
- We discussed CCHS graduation requirements & how those compare with typical college admissions requirements. See the chart below for a better understanding of the core academic expectations.

Subject Area/Class needed <b>to graduate</b> <b>CCHS</b>	# of Years	Subject Area/Class typically required <b>for</b> <b>college admittance</b>	# of Years
English.....	4.0	English.....	4.0
Math.....	3.0	Math.....	4.0
Science.....	2.0	Science.....	3.0 or more
Social Studies.....	2.0	Social Studies.....	3.0 or more
World Language.....	Not required	World Language.....	Depends on the college/university; generally 2.0 or more
Fine Arts/Vocational.....	1.0	Fine Arts/Vocational.....	Depends on the college/university
Physical Education.....	4.0		
Health.....	0.5		
Consumer Education.....	0.5		

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- The freshman class is aware they are building their academic transcript every day and I want to continue to encourage students to...
  - work hard to get good grades
  - get involved in a club, activity, or sport
  - have good attendance
  - continue to make good choices
- A couple great academic resources parents should be aware of:
  - 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. When students arrive they fill out a sign in sheet and when they leave, they sign out. There is no time requirement; it is a come-as-you-need program.

## Other ways to stay “IN THE LOOP”

- Join the Student or Parent 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
  - Instructions for parents to join: text the message “@2021paren” to 81010

Never hesitate to contact me with questions and/or concerns. My email is [krista.smith@cchs165.com](mailto:krista.smith@cchs165.com)

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