



FEBRUARY 2023

THE GUIDANCE LIGHT

Cold Spring Harbor Central School District



Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr HS Counseling Center NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Director's Desk:

Dear Students and Families,

The second semester of this 2022-2023 school year began on Monday, January 30. This marks the transition to many new courses for students who are enrolled in semester-long classes. It also brings a fresh start to students in all classes as the new quarter begins. February is a very short month, with only 15 days of school, but it is an important time for those students who are interested in National Honor Society (grade 11) or Junior National Honor Society (grade 8) membership. Applications will be shared on February 15 with students who qualify and information can be found on the high school webpage under "Clubs and Activities."

February is a time to reflect on the important relationships in our lives as we celebrate Valentine's Day, and it is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans during Black History month. The month of February also provides an opportunity to recognize our school counselors for their valuable work through the celebration of **National School Counseling Week (February 6-10, 2023)**. This year's theme is "*School Counselors: Helping Students Dream Big.*" Specific information about the role of the school counselor in Cold Spring Harbor can be found in this newsletter. We are grateful for the individual relationships our counselors build with each student and the collaborative approach they take to meet their varied goals.

Please be reminded that the course selection process for the 2023-2024 school year at the Jr/Sr High School will end on March 6. The eSchool portal provides access for all families to view current course recommendations and selections. Please reach out to counselors, teachers and directors/chairpersons with any questions you may have during this process.

Warm regards,

Mona E. Hecht



Ignite Your Passion

**Cold Spring Harbor
Central School District**

Be an Inspiration for Excellence



Happy Valentine's Day



Important Dates:

February: 2023-2024 course selection meetings with counselors

2/1: SEPTO College Information Night 7PM HS Library

2/10: Registration Deadline for March 11 SAT

2/11: ACT Exam

2/16: Suggested registration date for June SAT and ACT exams to ensure preferred test center availability





SPRING SEMESTER

It may not look or feel like SPRING yet, but we have started the spring semester. What a great time to get organized, set new goals, and implement new habits. It is easy to get into a routine that includes some patterns that aren't the most beneficial for us. Now is the time to reflect on current and past practices and make changes if needed.

Here are some ideas:

- ⇒ Complete homework and review material daily
- ⇒ Identify questions and/or areas of difficulty, and address them right away
- ⇒ Seek out assistance: see your teacher for extra help, visit the homework center, ask a friend, or search online support
- ⇒ Take an extra step: read ahead, go over a graded assignment or assessment, and review what you need to work on to ensure understanding

Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

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February Counseling Center Announcements

Course Selection Process

Counselors are continuing to work with each student in grades 7-11 to ensure a personal and appropriate program is planned for the 2023-2024 school year.

Important Reminders:

The deadline for next year's course selection is March 6, 2023. After that time, the administrative team will be reviewing course enrollment data, making decision about numbers of sections, determining staffing needs, and creating the master schedule. Choices and decisions made now affect all of these next steps. No elective course changes will be accepted while this process is underway. Students may review their selections again in May, at which time requests for changes will be accepted and addressed if there is availability in the requested courses.

Thank you for making these important decisions with much thought and care.



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Your School Counselor



As we celebrate *National School Counseling Week*, February 6-10, we would like to share information about the role of the school counselor here in Cold Spring Harbor. Our counselors work closely with students, families, faculty, staff and administrators to ensure that each individual student has the opportunity to meet with much success in and out of the classroom. At the junior high school level, Ms. Pickering addresses the many transition needs students have as they move from the elementary buildings to the junior high school. She works with these students through grades 7 & 8 to ensure the continuity of services through junior high school. As students move into high school, they are assigned a school counselor with whom they work for all four years. All counselors address whole-grade student needs by presenting classroom sessions on pertinent grade level topics. Counselors then work individually with each student to create a personalized plan that includes and addresses each of the areas listed below. The comprehensive school counseling program is developmentally appropriate and serves all students.

ACADEMIC

Monitor Academic Progress
Course selection advisement: balancing rigor, interests and goals
Managing transcripts
GPA calculation
Attendance: monitoring and providing support
Monitoring graduation Requirements
Managing diploma types
Providing academic support and guidance: identifying barriers and creating action plans for success
Honor society information

PERSONAL/SOCIAL

Exploring students' interests, skills and talents
Encouraging engagement in junior and senior high school activities: in-school and/or out-of-school
Providing guidance to develop organizational, problem-solving, positive decision-making, and time management skills
Supporting the development of positive interpersonal skills
Ensuring compliance with DASA (Dignity for All Students Act)

COLLEGE/CAREER

Exposing students to options through college/career exploration and learning opportunities
College testing advisement: PSAT, SAT and ACT
Naviance: college and career exploration and application tool
College exploration process
Classroom information sessions and parent/student evening programs
Letters of recommendation for college applications
College athletics: NCAA
Assist students with Financial Aid information and process



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JUNIORS: COLLEGE and POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

The counselors look forward to meeting individually with students in grade 11 to discuss the college exploration process. All grade 11 students are reminded that the Junior Bio is due in the counseling center by **March 6, 2023**. This important document is used by your counselor to prepare for your individual junior college meeting.

Students and parents are asked to review and complete their sections of the Junior Bio, providing information that can assist the counselor when identifying and recommending colleges to consider, step by step timelines, and a unique plan for each student. Appointments will be scheduled after the Junior Bios are received.

The college exploration and application process can be exciting, daunting and time consuming. Planning ahead, and accessing the resources available to you, including your counselor, will assist as you navigate this endeavor. We look forward to working together!

COLLEGE ADMISSION FACTORS

The college admission process includes questions from students and families about how admission decisions are made. The most important factor in this process is a student's academic record: the courses taken and the grades earned. Additional factors are often considered, and these can include, but are not limited to, a review of the student's activities, student's voice (essay) and feedback from the teachers and counselors who can speak on their behalf.

1. Academic Record:

- ☐ Grades Earned
- ☐ Courses Taken
- ☐ Trends in Achievement
- ☐ SAT/ACT (if required/submitted)

Students who have engaged deeply in areas of interest, have assumed leadership roles in activities, or have excelled in a particular area may set themselves apart from similar applicants.

2. Other Factors:

- ☐ Student voice: ESSAY
- ☐ Student's demonstrated interest
- ☐ Teacher/Counselor voice: Letters of recommendation
- ☐ Extra-curricular activities
- ☐ Work
- ☐ Portfolio (if needed)
- ☐ Interview (if offered)

Each student's profile and plans are unique. Counselors assist students in identifying options that match with each student's interests, goals, strengths, and best chance for admission.

3. Distinguishing Factors:

- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Deeply exploring an interest
- ☐ Going the extra mile



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SUMMER 2023: Let's Explore the Options

The days may be cold and gray right now, but it won't be long until the sun is shining late into the evening and flowers are peeking from the ground. As we move into the second half of this school year, many students and families are starting to think about summer activities. The Cold Spring Harbor Counseling Center has created a guide that we hope will assist with this exploration process.

Included in the guide is an extensive list of pre-college programs where students can spend time on a college campus and explore areas of interest - creative writing, the arts, sciences, music or technology. Students who may prefer to experience some adventure can explore outdoor opportunities near and far. Additionally, there are a number of athletic options for those who want to focus their energies on sports. While they are not listed in the summer guide, other great summer options may include local job opportunities and community service projects.



CSH Summer Program Guide



This document will continue to be updated as we receive information about additional programs throughout the spring semester. The counselors are available to discuss options and provide guidance related to individual students' interests and goals, so please reach out with questions.

SAVE THE DATE: 2023 Spring College Expo

The Nassau Counselor's Association will be hosting the annual **SPRING COLLEGE EXPO** at Hofstra University on April 25, 2023 from 5:30 - 8:30pm. This event includes representatives from a large number of colleges throughout the country as well as information sessions on topics including collegiate athletics, financial aid and the needs of students with disabilities.

Families can use this [LINK](#) to access the flyer with a QR code and plan for the event.



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THE COLLEGE PROCESS: Demonstrated Interest

Colleges are receiving record numbers of applications each year. In an effort to understand an applicant's level of interest, and chance of enrolling if admitted, many admission offices are tracking students' levels of "demonstrated interest."

How can a student "demonstrate interest?"

- ⇒ Connect with the college by getting on the mailing list and opening emails
- ⇒ Follow the college on social media
- ⇒ Connect with the admission representative who visits CSH and/or is the Long Island rep
- ⇒ Attend a college fair and make sure the individual college knows you're there (have a conversation and fill out their contact card)
- ⇒ Visit the campus, take a tour, and join an information session
- ⇒ Participate in virtual or in-person events

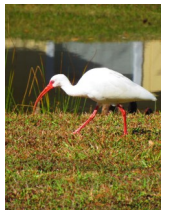
Even if a college does not track demonstrated interest, a number of college applications include a supplemental essay, asking "Why Us?" Students who are able to answer that question with very specific information about the college, the desired program or courses of study, and/or opportunities on campus show that they have done their research.

Most importantly, the more contact a student has with a potential college, the better chance they have of knowing it is the right fit. Take the time to learn about the options, ask questions, and connect with admission officers, current students and alumni when possible.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

COLLEGE TRIVIA!!

1. This college was the most attended by CSH graduates who chose to enroll in a 4-year **private** university between 2018 and 2022:
A. Fairfield University
B. Boston College
C. Elon University
D. Bucknell University
2. What percentage of CSH graduates enrolled in 4-year **public** universities between the 2018 and 2022?
A. 13%
B. 27%
C. 40%
D. 65%
3. This college was the most attended by CSH graduates who chose to attend a 4-year **public** university between 2018 and 2022:
A. Indiana University
B. Binghamton University
C. University of Michigan
D. Penn State
4. This university's mascot is an anthropomorphic white ibis:
A. University of Southern California
B. College of Charleston
C. Coastal Carolina University
D. University of Miami



Answers: 1. B, 2. C, 3. D, 4. D



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