



March 11, 2014

Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Although it has not exactly felt like it, spring is upon us (or almost upon us). Despite the cold and the snow, the steady hum of busy students and teachers working has not dissipated throughout the winter months. In fact, this current stretch, from the February vacation until the April one, is often viewed as one of the most productive by teachers. Without interruptions, momentum is gained. With momentum come established rhythms and impressive learning.

The attached progress report is the first of this final semester of the school year. It is an early indication of how your child is doing this term. And, when examined alongside your child's Semester I grades, which are now set, everyone – administrators, teachers, advisors, parents, and students themselves – can start to see prospects for promotion and how successful a school year it will be. We have taken great care to explain our promotion policies in the Student & Family Handbook, distributed in late August and available on our website. Please remember that semester grades will be averaged together. If your child does need to earn recovery credits, we will likely again partner with the Cambridge Harvard Summer Academy. CCSC will help register students and the Upper and Lower School Principals will be in touch with families who have been signed up.

This is also the stretch of the school year when many of our students take the MCAS, starting next week for grades 7, 8 and 10. As has been the case the past few years, this is an opportunity for our students to really shine – making themselves, their teachers, their parents and guardians, and our larger school community quite proud. We know these exams well and students are prepared. Urge them, as we are, to do their best, to demonstrate their mastery of the content. I am personally excited to see how they fare and confident in our continued ability to really push our students academically so that all show tremendous gains over the school year and throughout their time with us. The detailed daily schedule for next week's ELA testing is enclosed. Below is the schedule for all MCAS this spring:

Subject	Dates	Grades
English	March 18(Tu), 19 (W), 21(F)	7 and 10 (March 18) 7, 8 and 10 (March 19 & 21)
Math	May 13 (Tu), 14 (W)	7, 8, and 10 (May 13 & 14)
Science	May 15 (Th) June 2 (M), 3 (Tu)	8 (May 15) 9 (June 2, 3)



In other news, our basketball teams both qualified for the MCSAO tournament. First round playoff games will take place this Friday evening (March 14th at 7 PM) at UMass Boston. We're proud of their accomplishments and wish them the best as they finish their successful seasons. Our robotics team, having qualified for the state tournament, competed on March 8th. The team more than held their own, remaining in 1st place for most of the competition, before losing some matches late in the day. The team won the Motivate Award, which is given to the group that exhibited the best team spirit at the state tournament. We are so proud of their accomplishments as well. Spring sports are starting soon. Softball, track, and, for the first time ever, boys lacrosse, along with some club sports. Please do encourage your child to participate in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

As a result of the two snow days we have taken thus far, our revised last day of school for students is now Thursday, June 19th. The most up-to-date version of the school calendar is posted on our website. While it is strange to have to start thinking about the summer already, we hope you and your child are beginning to do so. Ms. Barrios has been working hard to expand the number of potential programs to which we facilitate student applications. The summer offers students a chance to do something different, something enriching, something that will help create a more impressive body of experience to be shared in college applications. If your child is going to spend the summer working, there is information on our website about obtaining the necessary permits (look under Parent Guardian Info).

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read and digest this letter. Please do reach out should you have any questions. Enjoy the warmer weather to come.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School