



September 6, 2013

Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It was so wonderful to have students return last week. Our faculty and staff had been preparing diligently – meeting, studying, crafting lesson plans, writing assignments. But a school without students is no fun at all, which is why their return on the 28<sup>th</sup> was so inspiring. Students themselves returned prepared as well, ready for the new year, and eager to reunite with friends, meet new ones, and greet teachers. Now, after a long weekend, We are off to a great start and getting into the swing of new routines

This coming stretch of the school year, from early September until Thanksgiving is such a critical one. With very few days off, teachers and students quickly get adjusted to one another and then have the opportunity to settle into a very productive rhythm. Core skills are taught and practiced. New content is presented and then applied. A foundation for the entire year of work is laid. Please continue helping us best support your child – ask them about their classes and what they learned, inquire about completed homework, check in with advisors is necessary, contact Mr. Dineen, Ms. Norris or Mr. Cook with issues. Together, we can establish that this year will be a productive one for all students.

As it is the start of another year, there is no shortage of announcements – important pieces of information – of which we need you to be aware.

- This year, we are piloting a **snack program during DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read, our silent sustained reading periods on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). Students may bring only healthy snacks that adhere to our guidelines. The specifics are in the handbook and on the website. During our designated breakfast and lunch periods, students can bring food and drink from home without restrictions. Students, during other portions of the day, may only consume water, so we encourage all to bring a clear water bottle. We strongly recommend that food and drink be healthy and nutritious at all times, as our days are long and students need considerable energy to remain focused and hard-working throughout.
- Instructions for logging into both **PowerSchool (grades)** and **SONAR (behavioral sanctions)** are included with this letter. Accessing this information helps parents stay current with course assignments and grades, and keep tabs on behavior as well. Email [parentportal@ccscambridge.org](mailto:parentportal@ccscambridge.org) with questions on using these online systems.
- Our **athletics program** has started and fall teams – boys soccer, girls soccer, and cross country – are already practicing in preparation for opening matches. The new Athletics page on our website has the permission slip and doctor's physical forms (a medical exam is required annually), which are required in order to participate. Practice and game times are posted on another new web page (Athletics Calendar). We



sincerely hope that as many students as are interested will take part in athletics and other extracurricular activities.

- CCSC is happy to announce that **we will be publishing a student/family directory this year**. Many families have requested a directory so that parents and guardians can contact each other to build community, share transportation, and find ways to help one another support their students. We value your privacy. This directory will be made available only to the families of CCSC students, not to the public. If you would like to opt out of having all or some of your family's information published in the directory, please review the enclosed opt-out form. Those who do not return the form will have their information published in the directory. We hope everyone finds our new student/family directory useful during the upcoming school year.

A few repeat announcements and reminders:

- **Library contracts and deposits were due today (9/6)**. If you have not already sent them in with your child, please do so.
- **Back to School Night** will be on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 PM. Please mark your calendar now and save the date.
- This year's **winter vacation will be longer than usual**. We will hold classes on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> (early release at 11:30), then break for the holidays. Classes will resume on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, meaning that students will have two full weeks off.
- **Like us on Facebook!** If you're new to our community, or haven't found us online yet, please take a moment to do so. In addition to various stories and pictures about the happenings around school, we use Facebook to announce school closings (we also use TV news stations) and other important announcements.

Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to read through this letter. We're here, if you have questions or need more information on anything. And thank you, as always, for continuing to do your part in ensuring an education of the highest quality for your child.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller  
 Head of School

