



January 9, 2013

Board of Trustees

Denise Jillson, Chair
 Robert Wood, Vice Chair
 David Boit, Treasurer
 Colm Prendergast, Secretary
 H Theodore Cohen
 Stefanie Dhanda
 Veronica Godoy
 Orin Gutlerner
 James P. Kelley
 Gwen Thorne

Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Happy New Year! As you likely heard from your child, we didn't miss a beat, returning on January 2nd and getting back into the swing of things. This time of year can be difficult; there are lots of starts and stops (vacations, semester breaks, week vacations, etc.). It is also essential that students navigate this stretch because the stakes are high. Semester grades – so critical for promotion and, of course, college transcripts – need to be the focus. It's cold. It's dark. And everyone needs to dig deep and sustain the focus and work completed thus far.

On Thursday, January 3rd, all students in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade attended our Alumni Panel at the Microsoft NERD Center. It was a fantastic event. Students heard about how CCSC's graduates are faring in college through a presentation by our College Counselor, Nadira Hairston. The senior class voted on two members of the Class of 2013 to read their personal essays for college. Both were honest, revealing, and powerful. One our current seniors, just named a Posse Scholar heading to Hamilton (which carries with it a scholarship valued at close to \$250,000), was recognized formally and cheered for by all. And then, nine of our alumni, who are current college freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, responded to questions from students addressing these topics: Choosing a College, Financial Aid, Academics, Choosing a Major, Housing, Student Life, Networking and Support, and Campus Life. Our graduates continue to impress and inspire. They're mature and reflective. And each is making the most out of the experience at places like Cornell University, College of the Holy Cross, Wheaton, UMass-Lowell, Fairfield, and Wentworth Institute of Technology. Ms. Barrios moderated the discussion. The event was filmed and we hope to be able to share footage via our website soon.

Midterm Exams for All Students, January 23-25

Every CCSC student will take midterm and final examinations this year. This is a change. Two years ago, only students in grades 10, 11, and 12 took midterms and finals. Last year, our 9th grade students joined the Upper School students. But midterm and final exams are important for students in 7th and 8th grade as well. They allow students to show what they've learned over eighteen weeks *and* provide opportunities for our middle school students to get a feel for the process – the studying, the rhythm of the days, the length of the exams – before it really impacts



transcripts that will be along when applications to college are submitted. Our 9th through 12th grade students understand the stakes. The exams are worth around 20% of their final semester grade. The exam grade is combined with student averages for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. Students must study effectively and take advantage of the in-class review time (at least three days with no new content for every course).

Date	School Hours	Detention (if assigned)
Wednesday, January 23rd <i>AM: Humanities, Part 1: English</i> <i>PM: Spanish</i>	8:30AM to 1:30PM	1:35PM to 3:35PM
Thursday, January 24th <i>AM: Science</i> <i>PM: Humanities, Part 1: History</i>	8:30AM to 1:30PM	1:35PM to 2:35PM
Friday, January 25th <i>AM: Math</i> <i>PM: Make-Up Exams (if absent*)</i>	8:30 to 11:00 AM (*1:30 PM)	1:35PM to 2:35PM
Monday, January 28th	NO SCHOOL FOR CCSC STUDENTS (Meetings for Faculty)	
Tuesday, January 29th		

There is no school for students on Monday, January 28th and Tuesday, January 29th. After exams, as we have done in years' past, students will get a well-earned break while the faculty meets to wrap up the first semester and discuss the coming one on these two faculty work days.

Lastly, the basketball season is underway. Home opening games are this Friday, January 11th at 7:45PM at MIT. Always a fun and spirited environment, we hope you come by and help cheer them to victory.

Thanks, as always, for reading and for supporting CCSC. Here's to a happy and healthy 2013.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller
 Head of School