



January 29, 2013

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Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It feels like only yesterday that I was writing you about the start of the school year, but – hard to believe – we have just wrapped up the first semester and are beginning the second one. I do hope that your child found some time to relax and recharge over the long weekend following midterms last week.

Enclosed you will find your child's Semester 1 Report Card. For students in grades 9-12, the grades on this Report Card will appear on the official high school transcripts submitted with their college applications. As we tell students over and over, colleges care most about their grades, and it's not just about passing and failing. The momentary relief that may come when a C- is earned and summer school is avoided pales in comparison to how critical it is to keep their GPAs up all four years. Colleges want to see solid and consistent GPAs, which come from lots of hard work and the resulting As and Bs.

Please find time to closely review the attached Report Card. Our promotion policies are different than they were last year and in years prior. Now, students will earn one final grade for each course. This final grade is a pure average of the first and second semesters. Students with a final grade of 70% or above earn credit for the course. Students who finished the year with a grade between 60% and 69% have the opportunity to earn a recovery credit by attending and passing the appropriate summer school course. Students who finish the year with a grade of 59% or below will not earn credit for the course. Credits earned dictate whether or not a student is eligible for promotion. In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students must earn credits in all of their core courses in order to move on to the next grade. Students in high school, however, must earn certain credits in order to be promoted. Please consult the Student & Family Handbook, which outlines the entire policy in more detail. If any part of it is unclear, contact your child's advisor.

Please mark your calendars for the next Parent-Guardian Association meeting on Tuesday, February 5, at 6 PM! The topic is "Helping Your Students Succeed in Class." CCSC's Learning Specialists will lead a discussion and answer questions on the range of academic supports at school, and offer tips on helping students at home. There also will be small group discussions for families of students with IEP and ELL services. Free child care, including

C O M M U N I T Y



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pizza and a movie, is available for children aged 11 and under. Please call Becki Norris at 617-354-0047 with any questions.

Unlike our students, CCSC's hard-working faculty and staff didn't get much additional rest. We spent January 28<sup>th</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup> in meetings, preparing for the semester to come. It holds much that is exciting – senior internships and graduation, Roundtables, spring sports, and yes, warmer weather. For all, regardless of how they did first semester, the new semester offers students a chance to reset and to make a fresh start.

Thank you for continuing to support CCSC.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller  
Head of School

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The Community Charter School of Cambridge will prepare a diverse student body, grades 7–12, for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship. At CCSC, all students are known well, encouraged to meet high expectations, and linked to their community through internships and other field experiences.

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CCSC can make documents available in any language upon request. • CCSC ka ba ou dokiman ekri an kryol si ou vle. • La escuela CCSC le tendra los documentos disponibles a su peticion.