



September 10, 2012

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Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

We're off and running here at CCSC, as you no doubt know. This beginning stretch is full of challenge and opportunity. It's challenging because we go until the Thanksgiving break without a real vacation. However, for the same reason, it presents an enormous opportunity: teachers and students alike get into a wonderful rhythm. The work and the learning that results are of very high quality. For students and families new to CCSC, I hope that the transition is going smoothly. There will inevitably be a hiccup or two as adjustments occur, but circulating around our three buildings over the previous two weeks, I have been impressed with the level of focus. Students – new and returning – are aware of why they have chosen CCSC, and we're so excited to guide them in their journey towards graduation...from college.

We are thrilled that our new space on the 3rd floor of the 255 Bent Street building is fully functional. We have four large, beautiful classrooms, a conference room, and three offices. The reports from teachers and students alike are quite positive. And, perhaps most importantly, we are at capacity – with every one of our 360 seats filled – but are not on top of each other. We have room to breathe and spaces that facilitate excellent instruction.

While we have always promoted how available our teachers are to help students (after school and sometimes before), we're trying something new this year: instead of each teacher having one day of the week when he or she stays in his or her room after school, each of CCSC's departments will staff an after-school help center that is open three days per week. The location will not shift – the same room every day. This means that a student who wants support in a specific subject – math, humanities, science, or Spanish – can almost always get targeted help. It might not be the student's teacher who is there, but all are very capable of offering assistance.

The 2012-2013 school year promises to be a special one. The students who graduated in 2009, those who took a chance on CCSC when it was simply an idea, are graduating from college this May. They'll be walking across stages and receiving diplomas from places close by, like Boston College and Wentworth, and far away, like Denison University in Ohio and Cornell University in New York. True trailblazers, we'll continue tracking them as they tackle the challenges of the working world in the coming years.



Last year, CCSC's health and guidance departments were awarded a grant by Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign. Their project is a three-part nutrition series that incorporates all CCSC community members. In late September, we will distribute a recipe book. In early November, our Parent Guardian Association meeting will focus on nutrition. The third part of this series is a cooking workshop that each student will participate in during advisory. We will launch our workshops during the first week of October in the Upper School. They are meant to introduce students to healthy eating.

CCSC's Parent Guardian Association will have our first gathering of the year on Tuesday, October 2nd at 6 PM. Childcare *will* be provided. Please attend this meeting to meet other CCSC parents and to learn about how you can help your students to succeed at school. Many parents like to bring food to share. Please bring a dish or a snack if you are able to do so. For more information, contact Becki Norris, Lower School Principal, at 617-354-0047 x103 or bnorris@ccscambridge.org.

Lastly, included in this letter is information that should help you log into PowerSchool's Parent Portal. This resource allows you to see your child's grades – day or night. It also allows you to really examine why a grade is what it is at a certain moment. You can see which assignments were completed and which were not. You can view how your child did on a specific homework or quiz or their midterm, for example.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for being actively involved in your child's education.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School