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Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I write with some very exciting news. In case you do not receive the Boston Globe or didn't see the news on Facebook or have not visited our website in a while, MCAS results were released last week and...*CCSC 10<sup>th</sup> grade students ranked #1 in both math and English out of more than 350 public schools in the state of Massachusetts.* Every single 10<sup>th</sup> grade student (now juniors) scored proficient or advanced on both exams last spring. Many no doubt qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, which means that tuition at state schools is completely waived (read: tuition at the UMass schools and others statewide becomes free). Amazing news, no? But it's not even the best news we got last week.

In addition to finding out that CCSC ranked first in both math and ELA among 10<sup>th</sup> grade students statewide, we also received definitive evidence showing that CCSC students are outpacing their peers across Massachusetts. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education measures individual students' growth from one MCAS to the next (7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade). 10<sup>th</sup> graders at CCSC ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for their rate of growth in math scores from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> in the state in English growth. *No other school or district in the state ranked in the top five in both growth categories; this places CCSC among the top 2% of schools across Massachusetts for median growth from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade.*

As you likely know, even though this news is truly wonderful and so very welcome, we're already focusing on what's coming next: MCAS for the students who still have them to take during their careers at CCSC, college applications, SATs, etc. for those now in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Most important though is student performance in their classes because student GPA is the single most important factor when each CCSC student applies to college. Yes, we're thrilled about the MCAS news, but we have measured ourselves, and will continue to measure ourselves, based on other factors: how prepared our students are for college, where they're accepted, how much scholarship money they earn to make attending easier, and whether or not they graduate *from* college, not just gain admission *to* college. Our work is far from done.

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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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Other critical information for you:

- If your child took the MCAS last year at CCSC, his/her results are included in this mailing. Take a moment to review them and talk about the results with your child. What makes you proud? Which areas require improvement? CCSC's curriculum is working: we're closing the achievement gap, catching students up and helping them to race ahead. Is your child taking full advantage of our academic offerings? Our first marking period closes on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll be mailing home progress reports soon after.
- **The first meeting of the 2012-2013 Parent-Guardian Association will be held on Tuesday, October 2, at 6 PM.** At this meeting, you will learn a variety of ways you can help your students to succeed at CCSC – in homework, behavior, studying, and more. There will also be plenty of time to ask questions and share your ideas for future PGA meeting topics. *Free child care, including pizza and a movie, will be provided for children 11 and under.* If you can, please bring a snack or a dish to share. For more information, call Becki Norris at 617-354-0047.
- On Wednesday and Thursday, a group of our seniors went with Ms. Hairston and Ms. Barrios to visit colleges in Washington, D.C. They toured Howard, Georgetown, American, George Washington and Trinity Washington. In addition, they visited the historic monuments and memorials *and* saw the White House!
- **Back to School Night will take place on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.** The evening's program officially starts at 6:30PM, but we welcome you to join us at 6PM for refreshments, coffee and snacks. Come early and meet other parents and guardians who have chosen CCSC. This night allows you to meet your child's advisor and briefly check-in with his or her teachers. In addition, you will hear from an administrator, receive support accessing and navigating PowerSchool so you can stay current with your child's assignments and grades, get more information on our extracurricular activities, our Parent Guardian Association's work, transportation to and from school, the lunch program, and the School Nurse's office.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for celebrating the MCAS news with us. We should all be proud. See you on October 16<sup>th</sup> for Back to School Night.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller  
Head of School